

AnacondaTimes

JULY 11, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

Soldiers fix weapons



Web Image

Small arms repairmen weapons and put warriors back in the fight, same day.

Page 7



Web Image

Movement control team has it covered

Unit coordinates air and ground transportation of goods needed throughout theater.

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Photo by Sgt. Michael Connors

Liaison gets casualty info for families

Human resource specialist turned casualty liaison gathers information for families back home.

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Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Soldiers and Marines recite the Pledge of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony at the Provider Chapel Annex here July 1. Around 180 servicemembers will obtain their citizenship during three naturalization ceremonies held here July 1-3.

They came in candidates, leave citizens

by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—Today's U.S. Army consists of a variety of Soldiers. Various ethnicities, religions, generations and nationalities make up the modern U.S. Army. Some of the latter serve without being U.S. citizens. Soldiers can acquire their citizenship while deployed here in Iraq.

Three naturalization ceremonies were held at the Provider Chapel Annex and the East-side Morale, Welfare and

Recreation center here July 1-3.

Around 180 servicemembers, consisting of Soldiers and Marines obtained their citizenship at the ceremonies. It was the final step for many who answered their nation's call for help even though they were born in other countries.

Sgt. Bethany M. Becker, legal assistance noncommissioned officer, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) staff judge advocate, said there are two ways Soldiers

“When you came here this morning, I was a general in America's Army, now I am your fellow American citizen.”

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry
commander, 13th SC(E)

come to the SJA looking for help with obtaining their citizenship: those with no paperwork and those that have start-

ed the process already and are looking to complete it while deployed.

The SJA completes the process in coordination with the Rome office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The Rome office oversees applications for all Soldiers deployed to Iraq, from interviews to conducting the actual ceremony where the Soldiers swear in, Becker said. Agent Lori Pietropaoli is one of the

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Leadership Engagement | Maj. Robert Crouch, deputy SPO, 4th CMMC

by 1st Lt. Kalen Smith

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—Support officers have a lot on their plate, as they often have to work well as a jack-of-all-trades, but Maj. Robert Crouch, Deputy SPO, 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, said he feels successful because he's been with this unit for quite some time, deployed once before in a similar capacity.

Crouch said being with the organization so long is a benefit to him because he doesn't have to learn the group's nuances or structure, and can simply focus on his job. "If you've been doing the same or a similar job, you've got the institutional knowledge... and are much more able to adapt. It's worked out well for me."

His last deployment was to LSA Anaconda as well, so he has felt very privileged, but also reminds himself why he is here. "It's real easy when you are at a staff at this level, to forget why you are doing what you're doing. The decisions we make – or fail to make – can ultimately end up costing Soldiers' lives, or civilians."

Being deployed to Balad is relatively safe, and not too stressful, said Crouch, so minimizing the stress for the war fighter is a key part of his mission.

"That's something we have to keep in mind. Every time we make the conscious decision to send out a convoy or send out a combat logistics patrol. Every time we make a decision to move supplies that is something that goes



Photo by 1st Lt. Kalen Smith

Maj. Robert Crouch, deputy support officer, 4th Corps Materiel Management Center here.

through my head – is this the right way to do things? More importantly what's the risk to the Soldiers and civilians to fly it, or drive it to where it needs to be?"

Crouch and his staff have answered those tough questions, and their response is to get as much cargo off the ground as possible.

"Fuel is always a challenge because it's the one commodity you can't fly...in big enough quantities to make a difference," he said.

During the past year, the amount of cargo being flown has dramatically increased.

"We've pretty consistently been flying over 20,000 pallets a month now for the last couple months and that's really phenomenal because if we hadn't achieved that,

then those supplies would be stacking up somewhere or we'd have more Soldiers on the road," said Crouch.

"We've increased fuel farm capacities at (Camp) Victory and Taji. We're in the process of doing that at (forward operating base) Speicher and TQ, which is pretty important."

Some of the biggest successes Crouch said he's seen is that the "organization existed only on paper until about Jan. 2006. It didn't have staffing completely rounded out until May of '06. The structure went through 20 or 25 changes to make it what it is now. Many people questioned the success of this organization, but it's been successful so far," he said.

Before the distribution

management center was fully organized, the supply managers and distribution managers didn't communicate well, but now they do. People are now cross training so they understand transportation as well as cargo.

The planning done for the troop surge proved successful as well. "It caused us to be very creative in the way we structured and reorganized our force. Supporting the full 20-plus brigades has its challenges," said Crouch.

Another project completed this year was the building of Combat Operating Base Hammer from scratch, and a brigade-sized element is now operating there.

Crouch credits a great working relationship within the staff as a big part of its

success.

"It's important each rotation comes here to serve, builds that woodpile a little bit higher, whether its making the distribution center more efficient, or making the installation here at (LSA) Anaconda a little better or making a workspace better, anything you can do to improve," said Crouch.

He said he thinks the last year has been highly successful overall, but he would definitely give his predecessor some advice, "Be flexible because although you get into a certain rhythm, or a certain pattern, everyday is different. Everything has a common theme, but at this level and this kind of job different things get thrown at you all the time."

One of the biggest learning points he has found is to avoid getting caught up in gossip or personality conflicts.

"Try to learn as much as you can. Don't get caught up in negativity about being here. Definitely don't get caught up in personality squabbles, it's a long year and to spend your time worrying about petty things, it will be an even longer year, but more importantly your not going to get our job done as efficiently or effectively."

The obstacles overcome by the command have been great, but he said they have always found a way to get the job done.

"Don't just say never because it's the easiest course to take. There is no maybe, it's just do or don't do."

ANACONDA TIMES

13th SC(E) Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry

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News update: developments throughout Iraq

CF combat extremist fighters in Ramadi

Multi-National Force- West

RAMADI, Iraq— At least 23 insurgents were killed in fighting 4 kilometers south of Ramadi on Jazzera al Humar (Donkey Island) along the Nassar Canal June 30 and July 1.

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces received reports that a significant number of anti-Iraqi forces had gathered on the outskirts of Ramadi to stage a series of large scale attacks. The group, affiliated with al Qaeda in Iraq, intended to regain a base of operations in Al Anbar with suicide car and vest bomb attacks.

The battle began at approximately 9:20 p.m. Saturday when Coalition Forces were attacked with small arms fire from two trucks near their position. U.S. Soldiers returned fire and pursued the fleeing attackers with the help of Army AH-64A Apache helicopter gun ships, Marine F-18 Hornet and AV-8B Harrier fighter jets. Helicopters killed at least one insurgent and wounded another, and destroyed the two trucks, later determined to be loaded with weapons, ammunition and explosives.

A detailed search of the

area at 5 a.m. Sunday discovered 22 dead insurgents, including seven who were wearing suicide vests, as well as 24 homemade grenades, 20 pressure plate improvised explosive devices, assault rifles and machine guns, military uniforms, suicide vests and backpacks with first aid kits. Most of the enemy were dressed in similar white dishdashas and white running shoes, an outfit often associated with extremist fighters prepared to kill themselves.

Coalition Forces continued their search for any remaining enemy or weapons caches in the area. Around 2 p.m., extremist forces again attacked with machine gun fire, grenades and a suicide vest. Coalition Forces responded with small arms fire and grenades, killing at least one insurgent.

Helicopter gun ships and fighter jets provided aerial surveillance and engaged multiple enemy positions, including the destruction of an enemy bunker complex with precision guided munitions.

Coalition Forces detained two enemy fighters and transported them to a military detention facility for questioning.

Intense attack is met with air strike in Ad Diwaniyah

Multi-National Division- Central South

BAGHDAD— Insurgents targeted Camp Echo and the surrounding area with as many as 75 mortars and rockets in the early hours of July 2.

Coalition Forces responded to the threat with an F-16 air strike on identified points of origin of the attack.

At around 2 a.m. Camp Echo and near by residents of Diwaniyah City suffered a barrage of indiscriminate mortar fire and rocket attacks from insurgents operating in the Al Jumuri district.

About 25 mortars and rockets struck within the perimeter of Camp Echo, injuring 3 Coalition Soldiers.

The remaining 50 rounds

impacted outside of the base in the surrounding neighborhood.

Coalition Forces identified a number of launch points for this attack and directed two F-16 aircraft to respond.

The aircraft targeted and bombed the insurgent launch sites.

The bulk of the attacks were conducted from Salim Street, where insurgents persistently use urban areas from which to attack, in order to use civilians as human shields.

Coalition Forces are reviewing the incident to ensure that appropriate and proportionate force was used in responding to the intense attack.



Courtesy Photo

Coalition Forces discovered a homemade explosives factory in an unfinished brick building in the Diyala River valley near Baquba.

CF destroy homemade explosives factory

Multi-National Division- North

TIKRIT, Iraq— Coalition Forces destroyed a homemade explosives factory in the Diyala River Valley, July 1.

The factory, which was located in a single story unfinished brick structure outside the village of Mikbisa, northeast of Baqouba, was discovered on Sunday night by CF who were conducting routine patrols and noticed the suspicious looking structure.

Upon entering the building, CF discovered large amounts of fertilizer, ammonium nitrate and nitric acid, all key ingredients used in making explosives. The house also contained a drying room in which the entire floor was covered with over 500 lbs. of recently manufactured HME. Additionally, a number of chemical suits and other cloth-

ing items used to work with chemicals, to include boots, goggles, vapor masks and a large number of chemical gloves were found inside the house.

“This is a significant find and confirms that al-Qaida is working against the good people of Iraq,” said Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general of Multinational Division-North and Task Force Lightning. “We have seen these homemade explosives in IEDs and car bombs that have been used against the ISF, CF and innocent people of Diyala.”

When they finished searching the building, CF destroyed the house and all of its contents.

“The fact that this factory was discovered and destroyed will undoubtedly save many lives in Iraq,” said Mixon.



Courtesy Photo

Various articles of protective gear were found throughout the building including boots, gloves and breathing masks.

Combat Stress Control

113th Medical Company (CSC)

433-2402

Individual counseling by appointment or walk-in

Command referrals

Services for combat and operationally stressed soldiers

RELAXATION TECHNIQUES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY
3:30 TO 4 P.M.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

HOME FRONT ISSUES

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
5 TO 6 P.M.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANGER MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANXIETY AWARENESS

WEDNESDAY
3 TO 3:30 P.M.
SATURDAY
10:30 TO 11 A.M.

SLEEP HYGIENE

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
6 TO 6:30 P.M.

GOAL SETTING

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

DEPRESSION AWARENESS

WEDNESDAY
2 TO 3 P.M.
SATURDAY
10 TO 10:30 A.M.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

WEDNESDAY
9 TO 11 A.M.

for more information,
email:

melissa.kale@us.army.mil

433-2402

Retention NCO educates Soldiers on reenlistment options in theater

by Spc. Karly Cooper

15th SB, Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq— By the time a Soldier arrives at a unit, decisions need to be made and opportunities start knocking on life's door – this is where retention begins.

On Camp Taji, the 15th Sustainment Brigade career counselor works day after day helping as many Soldiers as he can throughout their strenuous deployment by giving them the guidance they are seeking for their careers.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian E. Helgren has the tools for inquiring Soldiers who come to him to see just what re-enlisting in the Army will do for them, whether for career enhancement, educational advantages or other motivations.

After being in the military himself for 22 years, Helgren knows and understands the changes and decisions that need to be made when it comes to one's future.

"Soldiers have many reasons for reenlisting, some for personal reasons, some for money, some for family tradition, some joined right out of high school and the Army



Photo by Spc. Karly Cooper

(From left to right) Staff Sgt. Thompson, 15th BTB, Sgt. 1st Class Helgren, 15th BTB and Staff Sgt. Winterstein 867th CSB, all work towards getting Soldiers the tools they need when deciding whether or not to reenlist.

is all they ever wanted," said Helgren.

The 15th SB counselors have confirmed over 750 contracts since the beginning of the deployment, and \$9

million in bonuses have been awarded.

The reenlistment numbers rose in April, making it the peak month for Soldiers re-enlisting in Active duty.

National Guard and Reserves had a two-month tie break making October 2006 and January 2007 the peak

See Reenlist, Page 12

Worship services

PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL

Sunday 9:30 a.m. USAF Hospital Chapel
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel
10 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
7:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

PROTESTANT – GOSPEL

Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building
11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT – PRAISE & WORSHIP

Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building
9 a.m. Eden Chapel
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
7:30 p.m. Eden Chapel

PROTESTANT – SAMOAN CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 10 a.m. Town Hall (H-6)
Wednesday 8 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Sunday 9 a.m. Signal Chapel

NON-DENOMINATIONAL SPANISH

Sunday 2 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)

LATTER DAY SAINTS (LDS)

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
4 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
4 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior to Mass)
Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
8 p.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 8:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
9 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
11 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Mon-Fri 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT-LITURGICAL

Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
Wednesday 8 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

First Iraqi Air Force class graduates basic enlisted training

by Spc. Karly Cooper

15th SB, Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq— The new Iraqi Air Force took another step forward with the graduation of the first class of Airmen from Basic Enlisted Training at the Iraqi Air Force Training School here June 13.

These Airmen are the first enlisted accessions into the Iraqi Air Force since the fall of the Ba'ath regime in 2003.

The school is run with the assistance of Coalition Air Force Transition Team members.

U.S. Air Force personnel from selected specialties are responsible for providing the technical training needed to get the new IAF off the ground.

This past spring, eight military training instructors from Lackland Air Force Base deployed to Camp Taji to stand up the basic enlisted training portion of the school.

The recruits first completed five weeks at Iraqi Army Basic Training before being selected for accession into the new Iraqi Air Force. Instruction then continued under the direction of the MTIs.

“The day they arrived was the most memorable. After seeing these Janood (Airmen) for the first time, I remembered picking up flights in the U.S. and I realized again why I am here,” said Tech. Sgt. Justin Apticar, an MTI from Green, Ohio.

There are differences be-



Photo by Spc. Karly Cooper

Two distinguished honor graduates of the Iraqi Air Force receive a handshake and a coin for completing the 20-day training. The Jundi's (privates) recognized were the top of their flights.

tween the course at Lackland Air Force Base and what the MTIs present at Taji.

Instructors were required to master the British style of drill

and the corresponding Arabic commands used by the Iraqi military, for instance. The basics, however, remain the same.

The intense 20-day training program focuses on discipline, attention to detail and teamwork; all hallmarks of a successful basic training program.

A typical training day, which included physical fitness, drill, inspections and classroom instruction, would begin at 4:45 a.m. and finish at 9 p.m.

After graduation many of these Iraqi Airmen will go on to receive technical training from the school at Taji.

Follow-on courses include aviation fuels, crash fire and rescue, aircraft maintenance, and flight line security.

Whatever field they train into, these volunteer Iraqi Airmen are helping secure the future of their homeland.

“This first class was a complete success,” said Capt. Sam Peters, Chief of the Iraqi Air Force Basic Enlisted Training Program. “Every day we spent teaching these brave new Airmen we learned a little bit better how to train them and what was important to them as defenders of a new Iraq.”

Now that the Airmen have graduated and are on their way to specialty training, the MTIs will regroup and revamp the course as they begin transitioning the program over to Iraqi

control.

“The United States Air Force should be proud of these eight MTIs. They came to an uncertain job and made certain they made a difference, a brilliant performance,” said Peters.

As this new Air Force establishes itself, the addition of these 45 new Airmen will prove to be a significant start to a securing a sovereign Iraq. And they're only now starting to see the horizon.



Photo by Spc. Karly Cooper

An Iraqi Air Force flight crew stand at attention behind their U.S. Air Force military training instructors. The Jundi's (privates) spend 20-days going through training for the Iraqi Air Force.



Photo by Spc. Karly Cooper

An Iraqi General shakes the hand of a Jundi (private) graduating from the Iraqi Air Force on June 13. The Jundi's spend 20 days training to be in the Air Force before they go on to their technical school.

EMG trades tent tunnels for pre-engineered facility

by 1st Lt. Shannon Collins

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing PA

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq— The Air Force Theater Hospital here, the last military level three trauma tent hospital in the area of responsibility, moved one step closer to a pre-engineered facility during a dedication ceremony June 29.

Throughout the ceremony, distinguished visitors and commanders spoke of the dedicated staff and afterward, the staff gave a tour of the new facility to the many Airmen and Soldiers who attended.

"I've been in Iraq for almost 11 months and during this time, I have watched this facility start from a conception to today to completion," said Army Maj. Gen. Ronald Silverman, 3rd Medical Command commanding general. "It has been an outstanding and phenomenal success. When I left the United States, I made a pledge to my Soldiers' families and said that I will do everything possible to make sure their family members come home safely. It is because of a place like this that I think I will be able to keep my pledge."

Thousands of patients ranging from American military members to Iraqi freedom fighters and civilians have



Photo by by Airman 1st Class Jonathan Steffen

Lt. Col. Michael Glass, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group logistics flight commander, gives a tour of the new Air Force Theater Hospital to Airmen and Soldiers here.

been treated at the hospital, and the staff currently performs more than 2,000 surgical procedures a month.

"As momentous of an occasion as this, this is only a small part of an integrated system

that begins with the warfighter," said Col. Brian Masterson, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander. "Through proper protective equipment, training, self-aid and buddy care, combat medics, medevac helicopters, critical care air transport teams, air evacuation crews and all the various facilities along the way, our nation has committed huge resources to bringing each of its heroes home. The new Air Force Theater Hospital is a vital piece of this astounding mission."

Though the current hospital already has a high success rate, the colonel expects the rates to be even better with the new facility.

"We have an outstanding survivability rate, reaching 98 percent, unheard of in prior conflicts," said Masterson. "The new facility will help to enhance our capability, help improve the survivability and minimize the consequences of war. Inside the new facility lies the most sophisticated lifesaving technology you'll not only find anywhere in the world. This is an advanced trauma center that rivals the best trauma centers in the United States, and we do it in a deployed environment."

About 250 contractors worked during the day and about 150 worked during the night to build the new facility

within six months. The original Iraqi Air Force Academy Hospital was incorporated into the new facility, a few blocks away from the tent hospital. The original Iraqi hospital was about 4,300 square feet.

The current hospital, around 63,100 square feet and made up of more than 30 tents, upgrades into about 97,000 square feet. The upgrade gives the hospital and its staff of about 379 servicemembers several advantages.

The new facility has 20 intensive care units, 40 beds and up to eight operating tables.

Better environmental controls, better power production and distribution systems, conditioned power, indoor plumbing, having all medical services in one area, safety and space are just some of the many advantages of the new facility, said Lt. Col. Michael Glass, 332nd EMG logistics flight commander.

The previous tent hospital had very little insulation, and the environmental control units can only reduce the temperature about 15 to 20 degrees.

"When it's 120 degrees outside, we can only bring it down to about 100 degrees inside," said Glass.

"When these systems are operating at full capacity, it stresses the power distribution system, and the breakers trip,

causing temporary but frequent power outages," he said. "When the power goes out, the tents heat up very fast. The new hospital will have hundreds of AC units to provide very controlled temperatures, and it should stay around 75 to 80 degrees year round."

The new facility will also have cleaner power systems and power conditioning systems, meaning less wear and tear on the expensive medical equipment.

One of the biggest advantages is space. The new facility has double the number of trauma bays. The operating rooms and patient rooms are also bigger and better, said Glass.

The original theater hospital, established in 2003, was an Army mission. The U.S. Air Force assumed the responsibility for the operation of this theater hospital in September 2004. In December 2005, the Air Force moved the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility to its present location next to the new Air Force Theater Hospital.

The co-location of the future Air Force Clinic at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Sapper Avenues will create the largest medical complex in the Central Command area of responsibility with more than 107,000 square feet of clinical space, said Masterson.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alan Port

Members of the 332 Expeditionary Medical Group Honor Guard raise the first flag over the new Air Force Theater Hospital during the ribbon cutting ceremony here.

Soldiers repair weapons, put warriors back in fight

by Sgt. Michael Connors

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq— In a small shop tucked away in a restricted area here, a small-arms repair team works tirelessly, offering same-day service to put weapons back in the hands of warfighters.

“If you bring a weapon here, you’ll get one back today,” said Sgt. Todd Kerwin, a small arms repairman with the 758th Maintenance Company, an Army Reserve unit from Whitehall, Ohio. “If we can’t fix it, we’ll replace it.”

Approximately 10 Soldiers work in the Small Arms Support Center. In addition to 758th Soldiers, SASC is staffed by Soldiers from Forward Support Company, 19th Engineer Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky. Kerwin and Spc. Eric Rose, another small arms repairman with the 758th, talked about the impact their mission has here.

“It feels like I’m actually making a difference in what’s going on,” said Rose, a North Richland Hills, Texas, resident. “If we can’t fix the weapons then that very well



Photo by Sgt. Michael Connors

Sgt. Todd Kerwin (left) and Spc. Eric Rose (right), both with the 758th Maintenance Company, ensure the magazine fits and ejects properly from the M-4 they are repairing.

could limit the mission that some units have outside the wire, and keeping their weapons online is their lifeblood,

and I know I have a very big hand in it.”

The 758th has been here for approximately 10 months, and in that time SASC has completed more than 4,000 work orders, averaging 20 weapons a day, said Kerwin, a Conway, Ark., resident. SASC works on weapons ranging from 9 mm handguns to 120 mm mortar tubes.

Although other forward operating bases have direct support shops, they cannot always cover the range of repairs that SASC here can perform, so SASC supports the entire theater to some degree, said Kerwin.

Kerwin and Rose talked about some of the common problems they see with weapons, many of which result from servicemembers going beyond user-level maintenance.

“Don’t tear it down past your level of maintenance,” said Kerwin. “If it ain’t in the 10 manual, don’t take it apart any further.”

“Just because there’s a screw visible doesn’t mean that it’s there for you to take off,” said Rose.

Specifically, Kerwin and Rose said common mistakes include taking gas rings off the bolt, taking out the trigger group, and taking off the butt-

stock.

When servicemembers take off the trigger group, “Nine times out of 10 they don’t put it back together properly,” said Kerwin. And when they take the buttstock off, “Next thing you know they put it on and the spring that holds the detent is all bent out because they didn’t line it up right.”

Kerwin also pointed out the importance of properly lubricating weapons to avoid damage. He said individual weapons should be “pretty bone dry” inside the wire and only a little oil should be used outside the wire. For crew-served weapons, though, it’s a different story when they are taken outside the wire.

“On the crew-served weapons, I can’t stress (it enough)—dump oil on ‘em, let ‘em drip, the more oil the better,” said Kerwin. “It’ll wash all that sand right outta there, especially on the 50 and the 240. Keep ‘em oiled!”

When asked what the single best tip would be for servicemembers to avoid damaging their weapons, Kerwin again emphasized the importance of sticking to user-level maintenance.

The Desert Storm veteran said he often hears, “Well, I took it apart, now I can’t get it



Photo by Sgt. Michael Connors

Spc. Eric Rose, 758th Maintenance Company, inspects an M-4 and M-203 for possible repairs.

back together.”

“That’d be a big tip,” Kerwin said with a laugh in regard to what not to do.

All joking aside, taking care of weapons is a serious matter. If servicemembers have weapons in need of repair, they should use their chain of command, said Kerwin. First, servicemembers should bring their weapons to their unit armorer. If the armorer cannot fix it, the weapon would then go to the direct support shop run by a contractor here. If it cannot be fixed there, then SASC will fix the weapon or replace it.

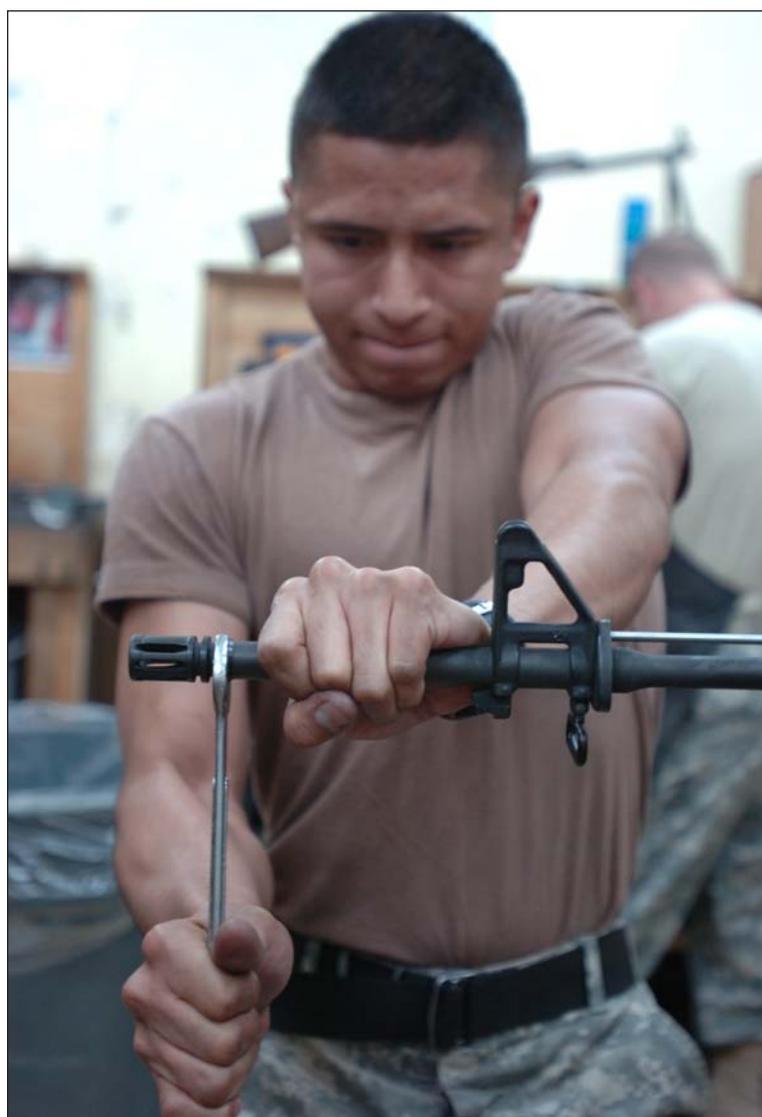


Photo by Sgt. Michael Connors

Pfc. Rene Sandoval, Forward Support Company, 19th Engineer Battalion, tightens a compensator on an M-16.

45th turns in desert sa

by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Anaconda Times staff

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq— The 45th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held their transfer of authority ceremony here June 26. The 45th SB from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, handed over control of forward operating base Q-West to the 3rd Sustainment Brigade from Fort Stewart, Ga.

Col. Michael T. McBride, commander, 45th SB, thanked his troops for their work and reminded attendees of the Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the deployment. Attendees included local Iraqi Army officers and civilians McBride worked alongside, who came to show their appreciation for the 45th.

The 45th SB was tasked with providing combat service support to Multi-national Division, North which included more than a dozen forward operating bases. The brigade, which was the largest logistics brigade in Iraq, had nearly 1,000 vehicles on the road every day and logged almost 6,000 combat logistics patrols last year. It moved more than 93,000 pallets of bottled water and more than 110 million gallons of fuel, according to the 45th SB website.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 13 SC(E), thanked the 45th SB for their hard work and commitment to the mission throughout their deployment. The 45th SB now leaves this mission in the hands of the 3rd SB.

Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander, 3rd SB,

expressed confidence in his unit's ability to continue the mission.

"Our primary mission is providing logistical support, providing sustainment to this very big multinational division sector, and that's precisely what we intend to do," said Williams.

Williams will also serve as the post commander. It is a challenge Williams says he and his support team are well trained and up to the task.

"I have no concerns about our ability to accomplish this mission," said Williams.

He credits Soldiers for all their commitment and hard work.

"I think Soldiers are as brave and as capable as they ever have been in the history of our nation," said Williams. "When I look at their personal sacrifices...their prosecution of what they've been asked to do, I think we continue to have the finest Soldiers in the world, and I am proud to serve with them."

He thanks all the family members back home as well.

"Along with the sacrifices of our team here in Iraq, we can't ever forget about the great people of the United States who give us the strength to continue to serve," said Williams.

This is the third deployment for the 3rd SB, which previously deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I as the 3rd Division Support Command and OIF III as the 3rd Division Support Brigade. The unit earned the Presidential Unit Citation for their support of OIF I.



Col. Michael T. McBride, commander, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) thanks local Iraqi Army officers for their support during a transfer of authority ceremony between the 45th SB and the 3rd SB at Forward Operating Base Q-West.



(Above) Soldiers with the 45th and 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) march during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Q-West. The 45th SB from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, transferred authority to the 3rd SB from Fort Stewart, Ga. (Left) Color guard Soldiers from the 45th and 3rd Sustainment Brigades, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) march during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Q-West. (Right) Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton H. Johnson, of the 3rd SB (Expeditionary), unveil their unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony, symbolizing the 3rd SB at Forward Operating Base Q-West.

and for sandy beaches



Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), thanks local Iraqi between the 45th SB and the 3rd SB at Forward Operating Base



Photos by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

(Expeditionary) participate in a transfer of authority ceremony authority to the 3rd SB from Fort Stewart, Ga.

Command (Expeditionary), march during a transfer of authority

the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command the transfer of authority between the outgoing 45th SB and



Citizen, from Cover

agents who works on cases for Soldiers here, she said.

Some preliminary interviews have been conducted via webcam, prior to the person-to-person interview by the agent, Becker said. This expedites the process, she said.

The process usually takes anywhere from three to four months for Soldiers with out paperwork and a couple of weeks for those who have some paperwork, said Becker.

The typical three-year process is waived for active duty Soldiers, she said. All Soldiers who served after 9/11 are eligible.

"It means more to them, because they are serving in Iraq," said Becker. "We're happy to help them."

One of those Soldiers is Sgt. Jillian F. Underriter, nuclear biological and chemical noncommissioned officer, 368th Cargo Transfer Company.

The Pusas, Korea native completed her application while on her current deployment, her second in Iraq. She has lived most of her life in Washington, D.C.

"It took less than two months to get approved," said Underriter.

"I had to start from scratch," she added. "I had to get fingerprints ... I had to



Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), speaks to Soldiers and Marines becoming U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony held at the Provider Chapel Annex here July 1.

get photos and mail off my packet (to Rome)."

She recommends the process to servicemembers who want to become a citizen.

"I encourage all Soldiers that aren't citizens to do it while their deployed," said Underriter. "It's faster to get approved, and it's just really important to be a citizen because if you decide to get out of the Army you'll have a wider selection of job opportunities."

The final step of the process for Underriter was the ceremony.

The SJA has had two ceremonies here previously, where 94 Soldiers obtained their citizenship the first time and around 44 the second time, said Becker.

"It's hard setting up ceremonies, getting everybody here, arranging flights; it's complicated," said Becker.

"I love it," she added. "I can see the efforts of my work ... to see the ceremony, see everybody sworn in."

Guest speaker Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 13th SC(E), reminded all the candidates and guests that America is a nation of immigrants.

"Today in Iraq, a country struggling for their own freedom, you are Americans," said Terry. "When you came here this morning, I was a general in America's Army, now I am your fellow American citizen."



Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), congratulates and presents Sgt. Jillian F. Underriter, nuclear biological and chemical noncommissioned officer, 368th Cargo Transfer Company, her certificate of naturalization during a naturalization ceremony at the Provider Chapel Annex here July 1.



Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Soldiers and Marines take the Oath of Allegiance prior to becoming U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the Provider Chapel Annex here July 1. Around 180 servicemembers will obtain their citizenship during three naturalization ceremonies held here July 1-3.

Movement control team covers all the angles

by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Anaconda Times staff

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq—

Life throws curveballs all the time, often at the worst possible time. How one handles them can speak volumes of their character. Soldiers with the 142nd Movement Control Team handled their curveballs with the tenacity of a seasoned slugger.

Soldiers with the 142nd MCT, commanded by Maj. David Mercado, were split between forward operating base Q-West and logistical support area Marez-E after arriving in country.

Their area of responsibility consists of everything in Multi-national Division-North.

Unfortunately, shortly after the split, the 142nd MCT lost four of 17 personnel assigned due to mission requirements and medical reasons.

A tough start to a deployment for any unit, but after a year in theater and a laundry list of accomplishments, the 142nd MCT proved their ability to adapt and overcome.

“We establish ourselves pretty successfully,” said Staff Sgt. Gilberto A. Versailles, noncommissioned officer in charge, 142nd MCT.

Once established, the 142nd MCT maintained



Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Spc. Jose A. Marrero, transportation management coordinator, 142nd Movement Control Team, verifies the information on a transportation movement request form. One of Marrero's duties at Forward Operating Base Q-West is overseeing and submitting units' TMRs for redeployment.

control of eight nodes between both locations, which consisted of two transportation movement request/air movement request sections, two foreign national staging

yards, two arrival/departure airfield control groups, and two consolidated passenger (PAX) terminals.

The main staging yard at Q-West, established by

the 142nd, has 68 lanes and staged an average of 500-600 trucks per day with a maximum allowed capacity of 1,000 trucks, said Mercado.

Anything coming in or out

of the FOB goes through us, said Mercado. That not only included the various types of cargo, but personnel as well.

At the PAX terminal, Sgt.

See MCT, Page 12

Three-time veteran NCO brings experience to unit

by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Anaconda Times staff

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq— Education can come at a great cost, but knowledge from experience is often more valuable and cannot be bought.

Staff Sgt. Gilberto A. Versailles, noncommissioned officer in charge, 142nd Movement Control Team, is on his third deployment to Iraq.

The Brooklyn, N.Y. native has been to the Middle East three times before. He was lucky enough to deploy with the 1st Armor Division all three times, twice to Iraq in 2003 and 2004, and once to Afghanistan in 2001.

“I’ve just been running around, transportation-wise, which helped me do what I do here,” said Versailles.

He used knowledge learned to help create standard operating procedures and tracking systems to better accomplish the day-to-day missions here. The 142nd MCT is tasked with providing logistical support for Multi-national

Division-North.

“We try to do things by the books,” he said with a low-raspy voice. “Regulation says it, that’s what I stick to.”

“He sounds so hoarse, because when everyone else is working nine hours, he’s working 18-19 hours,” said Maj. David Mercado, commander, 142nd MCT. “He overextends himself so these folks (Soldiers) don’t have to.”

Versailles worked long hours initially to compensate for the loss of four personnel in the detachment due to mission requirements and medical reasons. Once he established himself and his Soldiers, his work load decreased.

Versailles’ work habits have been praised not only by his superiors and subordinates in the 142nd MCT and the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) but by the units he has worked with including the 45th Sustainment Brigade.

“I don’t get too many complaints,” said Versailles.

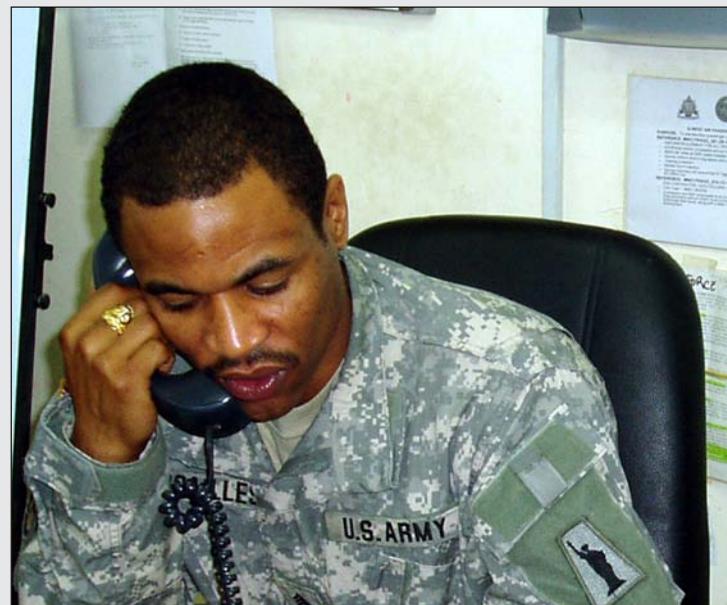


Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Staff Sgt. Gilberto A. Versailles, noncommissioned officer in charge, 142nd Movement Control Team, answers the phone at the passenger terminal at Forward Operating Base Q-West. The Brooklyn, N.Y. native has nearly 1,000 days of deployment time.



Photo by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Various contractor trucks await orders at a staging yard located at Forward Operating Base Q-West. The staging yard, established by the 142nd Movement Control Team, can hold up to 1,000 trucks.

MCT, from Page 11

Frank G. Ferreras, transportation management coordinator, 142nd MCT tracked all incoming and outgoing flights and the amount of people entering and exiting the FOB.

Working with the 142nd MCT Soldiers stationed at LSA Marez-E, Ferreras expediently coordinated flights for Soldiers redeploying home and those taking rest and re-

laxation leave.

Additionally, the 142nd supported operational movements for other units operating in their area of operations, including the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the 399th Combat Support Hospital and many others.

Even with this tremendous workload 142nd MCT Soldiers accomplished even with the short number of personnel, proven even more by the

fact they have only taken one day off from work since August, said Versailles.

"Everybody can always count on us to take care of what we need to take care of," said Versailles.

As they approach the bottom of the ninth and home plate is on the horizon, Soldiers with the 142nd MCT leave knowing they accomplished everything expected of them and much more.

Reenlist, from Page 4

months of reenlisting for the brigade.

"It's a team effort," said Helgren. "If the unit has a strong program with strong, trained, aggressive personnel that take care of the Soldier, the rest is up to the Soldier to decide to reenlist," he said.

Educating Soldiers on updates of the program is a real challenge, but the Web site www.armyreenlistment.com can assist servicemembers until they can visit a career counselor.

"Bottom line is most Soldiers love just serving their country and being in the Army, therefore make the Army a career," said Helgren.

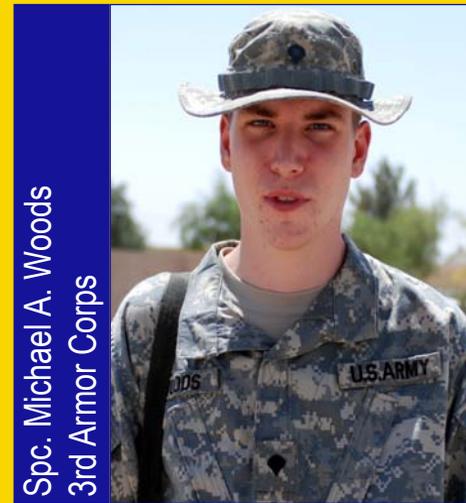


Photo by Spc. Karly Cooper

Sgt. 1st Class Brian E. Helgren, 15th BTB, works at his desk. Between Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, he has completed 750 contracts since his deployment began in Aug. 2006.

On the street with Sgt. Carlos Lazo

"What is your favorite summer activity?"



Spc. Michael A. Woods
3rd Armor Corps

"I like to go fishing wherever I can, bass, catfish, it doesn't matter."



Pfc. Julie Smith
719th Movement Control Battalion

"I like to go to the beach, an ocean beach not a lake beach."



1Lt. Avi N. Kaufman
719th Movement Control Battalion

"I like to ride my mountain bike in western Massachusetts, just take a nice peaceful ride."

Bill Perry

We love you and can't wait until you are back so we can play some spades and have a few. Also, I just wanted to say hi to all the Soldiers over there and to keep your heads up.

I know not everyone here in the U.S. appreciate what you are all doing, but I do.

Love you lots,
Chris Perry

Everett Watkins

Everyone back home says to tell you hello and that they are keeping you in their prayers.

I love you and miss you - can't wait for you to be home!!!

Love,
Michelle

Walter and Carey Rau

Hello, brothers! Kyle and I wanted to say hello and tell you how proud we are of you two.

Shout outs from home

We love you very much and can't wait to see you. We are counting down the days!

Love, your sis,
Christy

Bill Perry (Papa Bear),

How are things over there on the beach? All is well I hope! I am currently working at a firecracker stand, getting ready for the 4th. This year I don't know what I am going to do without my swing dance partner, because no one knows how to do it like us! Softball is going good and work is going just okay I guess!

I will be sending you a package of goodies soon! Take care and love you Lots! Can't wait to see you in September!

Love Always,
Your Little Girl
aka Muffin

Darren Friot

To all those reading this paper and especially to my nephew Darren a very special Happy 4th of July....you are keeping us safe so that we can be here in our great country and celebrate our Independence Day. You are all making sacrifices for those of us at home. Know that you are prayed for and thought of each and every day.

Words can not express what is in our hearts. God bless you all and keep you safe.

Thank you so much. Darren, see you soon...we love you.
Aunt Anne and Uncle Bob

Jacob Villarreal

We miss you so much! I know you are almost

home and I can't wait! The kids miss you so much.

You are going to be shocked at how big they both have gotten especially your baby girl...I can tell you this much, She is not a baby anymore!

But she will be fun for you! As for our baby boy well, he is just growing so fast!

Don't worry I am doing all I can to make sure he knows who you are.

I love you baby and I am counting down the days 'til you are back home safe. We love you. You are our hero!

Love You Always and FOREVER

Your Wife and Kids
Faith, Lina and Baby Jake

Craig Wertheim

Hi Craig. Miss you my friend!!
Glenn Hurwitz

Want to see your shout-outs here?

Your family can E-mail us at:



anaconda.times@balad.iraq.centcom.mil



(Schedule is subject to change)

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

5 p.m. 8 p.m.	Wednesday, July 11 Next (PG-13) Vacancy (R)
5 p.m. 8 p.m.	Thursday, July 12 Ratatouille (G) Fracture (R)
2 p.m. 5 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	Friday, July 13 Spiderman 3 (PG-13) Disturbia (PG-13) Transformers (PG-13)
2 p.m. 5 p.m. 8 p.m.	Saturday, July 14 The Invisible (PG-13) Transformers (PG-13) Next (PG-13)
2 p.m. 5 p.m. 8 p.m.	Sunday, July 15 Transformers (PG-13) Lucky You (PG-13) Spiderman 3 (PG-13)
5 p.m. 8 p.m.	Monday, July 16 Lucky You (PG-13) Transformers (PG-13)
5 p.m. 8 p.m.	Tuesday, July 17 Disturbia (PG-13) Next (PG-13)

<http://jennyspouse.com>

Jenny, the Military Spouse



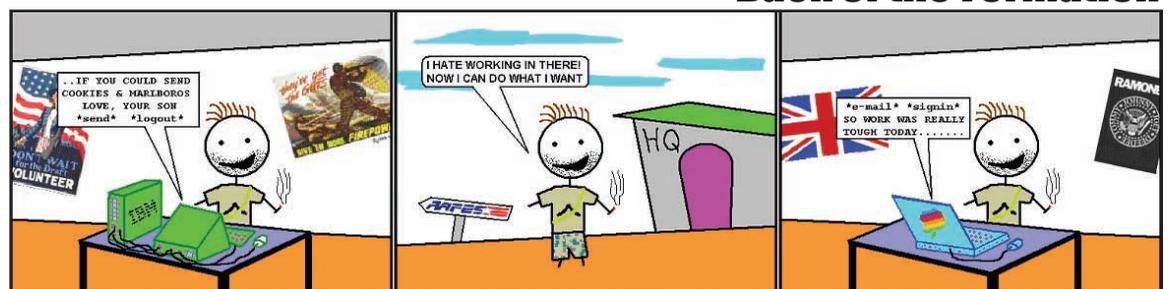
<http://www.pvtmurphy.com>

Pvt. Murphy's Law



Spc. Brian Wilson, 206th ASMC

Back of the Formation



July 11

Spades & Ping Pong
2 a.m. and 8 p.m., H6 MWR

Dance Aerobics
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

9-Ball Tourney
3 p.m. and 8 p.m.,
East MWR

Spin Class
3:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Aikido
5-7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Step Aerobics
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Hawaiian Dance Practice
6 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Open Volleyball
7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m., West MWR

Cardio Funk
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

8-Ball Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Floor Hockey
8 to 10 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Salsa Dance Class
8:30 p.m., West MWR

Martial Arts
9 p.m. West MWR

July 12

9-Ball Tourney
2 a.m. and 8 p.m., H6 MWR

Spin Center
6 a.m., H6 Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do 1
8 - 9 a.m., East Fitness Center

Aikido
10:00 a.m. to noon., East Fitness
Center

Korean Martial Arts
4:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Intermediate Swim Lessons
6 p.m., Indoor Pool

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

Your one-stop connection to activities around LSA Anaconda
to add your activity to the event calendar, email anaconda.times@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Country/Western Dance Class
7 p.m., East MWR

Tae Kwon Do 2
7 - 8:30 p.m., East Fitness
Center

Pilates
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Water Aerobics
7:45 p.m., Indoor Pool

Console Game Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Dodgeball League
8 p.m., Circuit Gym

Karaoke Night
8:30 p.m., H6 MWR

July 13

Dance Aerobics
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

Spin Class
3:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Step Aerobics
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Open Volleyball
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

Friday Night Spikes
7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Hip-Hop Dance Class
7-11 p.m., East MWR

Self Defense Class
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Hip-Hop Coffee Shop
8 p.m., West MWR

Scrabble Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Chess Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

R&B Music Night
9:30 p.m., H6 MWR

July 14

Pilates
11 a.m., West Fitness Center

Boxing
3 to 4:30 p.m., West Fitness
Center

Aikido
5-7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Salsa Dance Class
7 p.m., East MWR

Tae Kwon Do 2
7 - 8:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Country/Western Dance Class
8 p.m., West MWR

Texas Hold'em
8 p.m., West MWR

Bingo Night
8:30 p.m., H6 MWR

Wrestling
9 p.m., West Fitness Center

July 15

Spin Class
1:30 a.m., H6 Fitness Center

Aikido
10 a.m. to noon, East Fitness
Center

Magic, The Gathering
11 a.m., West MWR

Boxing
3 to 4:30 p.m., West Fitness
Center

Poker
7 p.m., East MWR

Poetry Night
7 p.m., East MWR

Swing Dance
7:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Gaston's Self Defense
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m., West MWR

Spades, Dominoes & R&B
8 p.m., West MWR

Abs Salute
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Salsa Dance Class
8:30 p.m., H6 Recreation

July 16

Texas Hold'em
2 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.
H6 MWR

Dance Aerobics
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do
8 to 9:30 a.m., East Fitness
Center

Spin Class
3:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Step Aerobics
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Boxing
7:30 to 9 p.m., East Fitness
Center

Cardio Funk
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

9-Ball Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Karaoke
8 p.m., East MWR

Poetry Jam
8 p.m., West MWR

Floor Hockey
8 - 10 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Martial Arts
9 p.m., West MWR

Martial Arts
9 p.m., West Fitness Center

July 17

8-Ball Tourney
2 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.
H6 MWR

Aikido
10 am to noon, East Fitness

Center
Spin Class
3:30 and 8:30 p.m., H6 Fitness
Center

Korean Martial Arts
4:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Kung Fu
7 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do 2
7p.m. - 8:30 p.m., East Fitness
Center

Pilates
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Foosball/Ping Pong
8 p.m., West MWR

Combative Training
8:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Martial Arts
9 p.m., West MWR

Martial Arts
9 p.m., West Fitness Center

July 18

Spades & Ping Pong
2 a.m. and 8 p.m., H6 MWR

Dance Aerobics
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

9-Ball Tourney
3 p.m. and 8 p.m.,
East MWR

Spin Class
3:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Aikido
5-7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Step Aerobics
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Open Volleyball
7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m., West MWR

Cardio Funk
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

8-Ball Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Floor Hockey
8 to 10 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Casualty liaison reps gather info for families

by Sgt. Michael Connors

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—“Human resource specialist” may conjure up a picture of a paper-pushing Soldier behind a desk. But to a team of human resource specialists turned casualty liaison representatives here, that image would do a great disservice.

Staff Sgt. Jesse Lucero, casualty liaison noncommissioned officer in charge, 22nd Personnel Support Battalion, Fort Lewis, Wash., leads a team of casualty liaison representatives at the Air Force Theater Hospital here. They file casualty reports on Soldiers and U.S. civilians who are brought to the hospital.

During our interview June 28, three medical evacuation helicopters landed on the hospital helicopter pad here, and Lucero had to stop the interview and spring into action, proving his position is anything but a desk job.

He quickly put on his hearing protection, shades and game face and moved quickly outside to the helicopters with other hospital personnel. They lifted the first of several casualties off the helicopter and onto a gurney for transport to the emergency room about 100 meters away.

Lucero was at the left shoulder of the casualty, capturing as much information as possible regarding his medical condition, as quickly as possible, for a casualty report.

“We’re looking at the pa-



Photo by Sgt. Michael Connors

Staff Sgt. Jesse Lucero (middle background) evaluates the casualty prior to moving him into the ER at the Air Force Theater Hospital here. As the casualty liaison NCOIC, he must capture as much information as possible regarding the casualty’s medical condition, as quickly as possible, for a casualty report that he sends up to MNC-I.

tient directly,” said Lucero. “We’re seeing, we’re hearing, and we’re writing down everything that we see and hear.”

The casualty report must be sent up to Multi-National Corps-Iraq within two hours, but his team typically sends the reports up in 20 to 40 minutes, said Lucero, who is from Las Vegas, Nev. The report then goes to the Department

of the Army, which gets the information to the families back home.

“We clarify for the families exactly just what amount of care the Soldier has gotten,” said Lucero. Casualty reports include diagnoses, injuries, illnesses and overall condition.

Casualty reports also include information regarding

the incident that resulted in the casualty. Casualty liaison representatives work closely with liaison officers who get that information from the casualty’s unit.

On this day, after Lucero accompanied the casualties from the helo pad to the ER and completed his duties, we continued our interview. He talked about how he deals with seeing injured Soldiers on a daily basis.

“It hits everybody hard,” said Lucero. “But me sitting there feeling sorry for them, pitying them or anything like that isn’t helping them any.”

Instead, Lucero said he focuses on getting the patient to the ER as quickly as possible and on doing his job.

What he does is simple in a way, Lucero said, but it is demanding.

“It’s one of those jobs where, yes, any Joe can go out there and do it,” he said. “But I think it takes a Soldier with a good head on his shoulders and the ability to multitask, and definitely deal with heavy stress to be able to handle this stuff.”

Lucero feels this position is for him.

“I love the job. I feel that I’m doing something to really help out the families because, yes, we concentrate on the

Soldiers, but we also need to remember the families back home. They’re a big part of the U.S. military.”

One of Lucero’s Soldiers, Spc. Daniela Conde from Grandview, Wash., said she appreciates Lucero’s leadership style.

“He doesn’t just sit back and watch,” she said. “He’s interactive, if he knows I need help, he helps.”

Lucero said he was truly proud of his entire team.

“I’ve seen my Soldiers go to great lengths and do phenomenal things to make sure that these patients are really taken care of, whether it’s just a matter of holding somebody’s hand, or standing by them because they need somebody to talk to,” he said. “I see them coming here every single day not expecting a word of praise.... The bottom line is it’s just been a great experience for all of us, and I couldn’t have asked for a better team.”

Though Lucero is on his second tour in Iraq, having served in Mosul (2004-05) in the same position, he said some people have only looked at him as an office-bound human resources specialist.

“They don’t look at you as playing your part, but I know I have,” he said.



Photo by Sgt. Michael Connors

Staff Sgt. Jesse Lucero (right), 22nd Personnel Support Battalion, and Tech. Sgt. Eric Sanders, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron (middle), look toward additional personnel running up to assist in lifting casualties from the UH-60 Blackhawk for transport to the ER.

90th Medical Service Corps anniversary celebration



Photos by Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Lt. Col. William M. Stubbs, commander, Task Force 32nd Multi-functional Medical Battalion, presents a Medical Service Corps 90th birthday coin to Col. Mark P. McGuire, chief, civil-military operations, theater optometry consultant, Task Force 3 Medical Command, during the Medical Service Corps 90th birthday celebration held at the Oasis dining facility here June 30.



(Top and bottom) Col. Mark P. McGuire, chief, civil-military operations, theater optometry consultant, Task Force 3 Medical Command, talks to medical officers during the Medical Service Corps 90th birthday celebration. McGuire was the guest speaker during the event.



Col. Mark P. McGuire, chief, civil-military operations, theater optometry consultant, Task Force 3 Medical Command, 2nd Lt. Kaloa I. Hearne, medical logistic officer, and 2nd Lt. Jeff K. Johnson, assistant S3 officer, both from the Task Force 146th Multi-functional Medical Battalion, cut the ceremonial cake during the Medical Service Corps 90th birthday celebration.



Maj. Kimberlee A. Aiello, executive officer, Task Force 32nd Multi-functional Medical Battalion, talks to medical officers during the Medical Service Corps 90th birthday celebration. The ceremony was hosted by the TF 32nd MMB and the TF 146th MMB.

