

AnacondaTimes

AUGUST 15, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Web Image

Conserving energy

Quick tips on how to conserve energy and why it is important to do so.

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Web Image

Visual oasis at outdoor pool

Servicemembers find time amid hectic missions to paint scenes of paradise.

Page 11



Web Image

Stengthening local economy

Local Iraqis hired to finish projects, strengthen economy and relationship with Coalition Forces.

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Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commanding general, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Fountain, command sergeant major, 13th SC(E), case the 13th's colors during the transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 8. The 13th SC(E) is being relieved by the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

New sustainment command 316th ESC continues logistics tradition

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — The 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) from Coraopolis, Pa. assumed authority of the logistical support mission for the Iraq Theater from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (SC(E)) on Aug. 8.

"This is a historic event with the 316th being the first command to use the Army's new modular force logistics structure. This structure

changes the way we provide logistical support on the battle fields today," said Col. Karen Jennings, deputy commanding officer for the 316th ESC.

"With the unit standing up in September 2006, just 10 months ago, the progress we have made is just outstanding," said Jennings.

The 316th is comprised of Soldiers from 43 states and four countries, and have attended over 500 training courses to help them ready for their mission since standing up.

"We have a tough road

ahead of us. Our Soldiers will be outside the wire daily but our Soldiers are disciplined, well trained and committed to excellence. The 13th has laid a great foundation for the 316th to build upon," said Jennings.

The 316th continues the mission of planning, monitoring, and providing daily logistical support to Soldiers in the fight throughout Iraq.

The incoming commanding general for the 316th is Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch and the incoming command sergeant major is Command Sgt.

Maj. Stacey E. Davis.

"I am confident Brig. Gen. Couch, Command Sgt. Maj. Davis and all the other Soldiers (and Airmen) of the 316th will meet the 13th's standards and then surpass them," said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, 13th SC(E) commanding general.

"I can't say enough about how prepared the 316th was upon arrival," said Terry. "Because of their enthusiasm and dedication, the transition process went seamlessly."

The 13th SC(E), headquarter

See TOA, Page 8

Assistant LGO talks to Soldiers about VA-Guaranteed home loans

Courtesy story

Multi-National Corps - Iraq

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — It's not often Soldiers get to hear about Veterans Administration (VA) benefits before they leave a war zone, but on July 30, members of Task Force 3rd MEDCOM learned about VA-Guaranteed home loans from Maj. John Heil, public affairs officer and assistant loan guaranty officer with the Roanoke, VA Regional Office in Va.

"I worked with Herman Cohen, loan guaranty education and training coordinator, to have the mini-pamphlets shipped to our headquarters," said Heil. "I feel that many veterans have misconceptions about the program and I wanted to show them how easy it was to obtain a VA loan."

VA-Guaranteed home loans are made by private lenders, such as banks, savings and loans or mortgage companies.

These loans are made to eligible veterans for the purchase of a home for their own personal occupancy.

VA guarantees the loan to protect the lender against loss if the payments are not made.

"Many Soldiers did not understand that (the) VA guaranteed the loan," said Heil. "Several Soldiers said 'I thought we borrowed the money from VA to purchase a house.'"

"Many also thought that the VA home loan process required piles of paperwork to fill out."

Some of the advantages the VA-Guaranteed home loan offers are it provides equal opportunity for all qualified



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sam McLarty

Maj. John Heil talks to Col. Emile Risby, theater mental health consultant for Task Force 3rd MEDCOM, about the benefits of obtaining a VA-Guaranteed home loan. Heil gave Risby a handy information pamphlet to take home. Risby was leaving country and heading home after a 12 month tour in Iraq.

"I like the no down payment aspect and most importantly the no mortgage insurance premium aspect."

Maj. John Heil
3rd MEDCOM

veterans to obtain a loan; no down payment is required unless required by the lender or the purchase price exceeds

the value of the property; no down payment loans up to 25 percent of the Fannie Mae conforming loan limit; buyers are informed of the reasonable value of the home; there are limits to VA closing costs; mortgages are assumable; there are no mortgage insurance premiums; right to prepay without penalty; for new construction, a warranty is required from the builder and assistance from VA is given [if necessary] to obtain a builders cooperation; and VA will assist veteran-bor-

rowers in default due to temporary financial difficulty.

"I think this program is great for a Soldier," said Heil. "I like the no down payment aspect and most importantly the no mortgage insurance premium aspect (PMI)."

"PMI can run a buyer hundreds of dollars a month," he said. "There are seven easy steps to getting a VA-Guaranteed home loan," said Heil, "Apply for the certificate of eligibility (COE) - lenders can do that for the

vet; the vet decides on the home and signs a contract; the vet selects a lender gives them the COE and loan application; the lender orders an appraisal; the lender lets the vet know if they qualified for the loan; the vet attends the loan closing and signs the documents; and then the lender applies to VA for evidence of guaranty."

For more information on VA-Guaranteed home loans Heil recommends that veterans visit VA's Website at www.homeloans.va.gov.

ANACONDA TIMES

316th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch

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507th Corps Support Group
15th Sustainment Brigade
CJSOTF-AP

15th Sustainment Brigade Soldier decorated for Valor

by Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Sgt. Timothy Hansen, gun truck commander with the 1157th Transportation Company, 867th Corps Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Valor during a ceremony here Aug. 1.

In May of this year, Hansen's squad, acting as convoy security for a combat logistic patrol, rushed to assist another convoy's vehicle after it struck an improvised explosive device.

Shortly into the mission, Hansen's gun truck found themselves in the same tragic circumstance as the crew they set out to relieve.

"We got struck by a large IED that was in the median in the road. The blast was big enough that some of the main parts of it actually hit just behind us and pretty much bent the truck in half," said Hansen.

Sgt. Ryan Fellenz, Hansen's driver, sustained serious injuries from the blast. In addition to ripping out the vehicle's steering box, the powerful explosion rolled the burning vehicle over onto its gun turret. The gunner, Spc. Joseph Steen, trained for such an accident and out of sheer instinct



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner

Col. Aundre Piggee, commander of the 15th SB, awards Sgt. Timothy Hansen the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal for Valor and the Combat Action Badge during an Aug. 1 ceremony here. Hansen, a gun truck commander with the 1157th TC, 867th CSB, 15th SB, saved the life of a fellow Wisconsin Army National Guardsman after their vehicle struck an IED. Ignoring his own injuries, the Janesville, Wis. Soldier freed his friend from the overturned and burning vehicle. His training and quick actions allowed other troops in the CLP to suppress the insurgents and evacuate the wounded.

ducked back into the truck prior to the rollover.

"He bounced around in the vehicle pretty good and sustained a severe shoulder injury," said Hansen.

The gun truck commander following Hansen's vehicle responded immediately. He

leaped forward to assist the injured Soldiers; managing to pry the passenger door open and pull Hansen from the vehicle.

Hansen, though barely conscious, circled his destroyed vehicle to extract the injured Fellenz. Despite his own inju-

ries, he immediately began administering first aid.

Hansen credited his recent combat lifesaver (CLS) recertification, as well as the training of the Soldiers who came to his aid, with saving his buddy's life.

"The CLS training made

"I did what I could. I kept Fellenz calm and helped put the tourniquet on."

Sgt. Timothy Hansen
1157th TC

all the difference in the world. I was still pretty out of it because of the concussion I suffered," said Hansen. "I did what I could. I kept Fellenz calm and helped put the tourniquet on."

Realizing the severity of his comrade's injuries, Hansen chose to stay behind with the convoy until medical personnel evacuated Fellenz and Steen. He later returned to Taji for treatment of his own injuries.

In addition to his award for valor, Col. Aundre Piggee, commander of the 15th SB, also awarded Hansen the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge.

"It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to present [these awards] to a Soldier of the 15th Sustainment Brigade," said Piggee. "This Soldier is the epitome of the warrior ethos; who came to the rescue of a fellow Soldier who was critically wounded. He is a true American hero."

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
3:30 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. Freedom Chapel
9:30 p.m. Air Force Theater Hospital Chapel
Sunday 9 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
11 a.m. Provider 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)

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

Tribal leaders continue reconciliation efforts across Diyala

Courtesy story

Multi-National Division – North PAO

TIKRIT, Iraq — Eighteen paramount tribal leaders representing 14 of the major tribes in Diyala province, Iraq, swore on the Koran and signed a peace agreement unifying the tribes in the battle against terrorism during a meeting at the Baqouba Government Center August 2.

The meeting, led by Ra'ad Hameed Al-Mula Jowad Al-Tamimi, governor of Diyala; Staff Maj. Gen. Abdul Kareem, commander of Iraqi Security Forces in Diyala province; and Col. David W. Sutherland, commander of Coalition Forces in Diyala, was attended by sheiks representing three Shia tribes, 11 Sunni tribes and 60 of Diyala's 100 sub-tribes.

"Let's build this tent and live under it like one family – all the tribes and all the people of Diyala. You have to be one family," said Ra'ad, who stressed the importance of the sheiks in the country's efforts towards stability and security.

"Problems can be solved by the sheiks because they have great influence on their tribes," Ra'ad continued, stating the tribes are the key to success in Diyala.

"Those tribes that do not choose to participate in the way ahead for a secure Diyala will be left behind," said Sutherland as he spoke to the tribes. "Don't say, 'I need,' until you say, 'I've done.' Do for your families, do for your tribes, and do for Diyala."

"The tribal leaders can change the hearts of the people," said Sheik Mahmood



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden

Sheik Thayer Ghadban Ibrahim Al-Karkhi, the paramount sheik for the Karkhi tribe, addresses concerns about tribal conflicts and the importance of tribal reconciliation during a meeting at the Baqouba Government Center, Aug. 2. Fourteen key tribal leaders swore on the Koran and signed a reconciliation treaty to unite against terrorism in Diyala province, Iraq.

Abdul-Shinba Al-Hassani. "Instead of cheering for the terrorists driving through the streets, the people will cheer for the Iraqi Security Forces in the streets."

"The terrorists are not that many," said Sheik Adnan Abdul-Mehdi Al-Anbaki. "We have to stand together and we need to kill the terrorists. We know who they are."

After discussing tribal differences and why it is important to unite, the sheiks signed a reconciliation agreement and swore over the Koran as a promise to uphold the agreement.

As stated in the Koran, "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves," the sheiks agreed to ten conditions.

Some conditions of the peace treaty include ending tribal conflicts and attacks; cooperating with the ISF; fighting al-Qaida, militia groups and other terrorist organizations; working with the security forces to eradicate corrupt members; returning displaced families to their homes; reporting and removing improvised explosive devices; and respecting all sects, religions

and women's rights.

"This is the time my government needs me," said Sheik Mazen Rasheed Al-Mula Jawad Al-Tamimi, paramount sheik for the Tamimi tribe. "Why should I stand by and watch when my people tell me everything – the good and the bad?"

"We have to consider the fact that local people are helping us. We have to work with them hand-in-hand and go forward," Ra'ad said. "If anyone is standing in our way as an obstacle, then we will have to take that obstacle away from our path."

Soldiers gather to honor fallen comrades at memorial ceremony

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Soldiers here gathered Aug. 6 to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

"They came to us from large cities, small villages and the farmlands of our great nation, said Chaplain, Lt. Col. Lyndell Stike, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). "They volunteered to serve, defend and they gave their lives."

"In combat you expect these things to happen but it is never easy," said Brig.

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

"You try to harden yourself over the years so that you can handle these things, but you can't," he said.

"Our most precious resource is our Soldiers, these are the lives of human beings, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers."

The ceremony took place in the foyer of the Joint Operations Center where a multimedia memorial displays the fallen Soldiers' photos, names and brief account detailing the circumstances in which the deceased gave his or her life.

"I pray that the memory

of these Soldiers will be held in high regard and when Soldiers pass this foyer they will pause and look at the sacrifices of those who came before them," said Terry. "May it give Soldiers inspiration so that we can end this in victory and bring our Soldiers home."

Through eyes welling up with tears, 13th SC(E) command group executive assistant, Staff Sgt. Antoinette Hardaway, emcee of the ceremony, said the Soldiers would never be forgotten.

Thirty-nine 13th SC(E) Soldiers died during the command's tour in Iraq in support of OIF.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

13th SC(E) command group executive assistant, Staff Sgt. Antoinette Hardaway, is comforted by friend and colleague, Staff Sgt. Erika Castro, also an executive assistant in the 13th SC(E), during a memorial ceremony Aug. 4.

MND-B Apache crews kill armed insurgents

Courtesy story

Multi-National Division - Baghdad

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Multi-National Division-Baghdad Apache helicopter crews killed four armed insurgents at approximately 1 a.m. Aug. 5 in northwest Baghdad.

The air weapons team of two Apaches from the 4th "Guns" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, was providing area security for 1st Battalion, 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Infantry Regiment, when the

unit came under small arms fire.

The "Guns" Apaches saw five insurgents with weapons maneuvering through alleyways. After being cleared by the ground unit, the Apache crews engaged the insurgents, killing four and wounding one.

"(Insurgents) think they can engage Coalition Forces and escape, but they cannot outrun the deadly effects of our Apaches," said Tampa, Fla., native Maj. Justin Hall, operations officer for 4-227th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion.

Iraqi Security Forces, U.S. Special Forces detain Shi'a extremist commander

Courtesy story

CJSOTF-AP

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Security Forces, with U.S. Special Forces acting as advisers, detained a Jaysh al-Mahdi battalion commander Aug. 5 in Baghdad.

The suspected Shi'a extremist commands five companies of terrorists who conduct improvised explosive device, suicide

vehicle-borne improvised explosive device and mortar attacks against Iraqi forces in the area.

The suspect also allegedly participated in the murder of several local nationals.

The suspect is being detained for further questioning.

No Iraqi or U.S. members were harmed in the intelligence-driven operation.

Beheading, torture cell senior leader captured

Courtesy story

CJSOTF-AP

FALLUJAH — Iraqi Army Forces, and U.S. Special Operations Forces captured a senior member of an al-Qaida in Iraq beheading and torture cell during a helicopter assault raid, Aug. 4.

With U.S. Special Operations Forces present as advisers, Iraqi soldiers detained their primary suspect and four additional persons of interest without incident at a residence in the vicinity of Karmah, located northeast of Fallujah.

Two assault rifles, numerous rounds of ammunition, cassette tapes, propaganda

materials and photos were also seized during the operation.

The primary suspect is second in command of an al-Qaida cell in Karmah. He is purportedly responsible for approximately 40 executions where he personally kidnapped, tortured, killed and beheaded individuals or gave orders for others to do so. He and his cell are also alleged to have facilitated foreign fighters, smuggled large weapons caches into Iraq, and planned attacks against Iraqi Security Forces and facilities.

No Iraqi or U.S. Forces were injured during the operation.

Insurgents detained in Marne Avalanche

Courtesy story

Multi-National Division - Center

BAGHDAD — KALSU, Iraq — Paratroopers from Strike Force Geronimo captured eight suspected al-Qaida insurgents believed to be responsible for attacks against citizens and security forces in North Babil, during Operation Marne Avalanche, August 4 northwest of Iskandariyah.

Paratroopers from the 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division conducted an early morning air assault and raid after receiving re-

ports pinpointing the suspects' hideout.

One of the suspects was listed as a high value target on the brigade's most wanted list. All are being held for questioning.

In addition to the eight detainees, pressure wire and other components used to construct improvised explosive devices were also found and were taken for use in the investigation.

"The local citizens are tired of being caught in the middle of fighting. They are tired of seeing their family and neighbors murdered and they are starting

to come to us for help," said 2nd Lt. Thomas Murphy, a platoon leader with the Strike Force. "I never thought I would see that, but we are here to help them. The sooner they can stand up on their own two feet the better."

In numerous precision raids during the first 10 days of Operation Marne Avalanche, the Paratroopers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Abn.) have killed seven insurgents and captured more than 80 others including seven cell leaders and other individuals identified as high value targets.



Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Christopher Perez

SUWAYRAH, Iraq — U.S. Special Operations Forces use explosives to open a safe as they conduct a combat operation to detain suspected terrorist leaders of an insurgent force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Wasit province.

MND-B Apache crews destroy rockets

Courtesy story

Multi-National Division - Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Multi-National Division-Baghdad Apache helicopter crews destroyed three enemy rockets and damaged five more at approximately 1 a.m. Aug. 4 southeast of Baghdad.

The aircrews from the 4th "Guns" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, responded to a request

for support from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

The ground unit had positively identified eight enemy rocket systems, set to launch by a timing mechanism.

"The cowardly insurgents abandoned their eight rockets, but Coalition Forces wanted to destroy them as soon as possible to prevent them from launching," said Tampa, Fla., native Maj. Justin Hall, operations officer for 4th Recon-

naissance Battalion, 1st ACB. "The Coalition Forces chose AH-64Ds and called the Big Guns, and within minutes, Big Guns (fired on) the eight rockets and launchers."

Cleared by ground forces to engage the target, the air crews fired on the rockets, destroying three and damaging the other five.

The ground unit's EOD team later conducted a controlled detonation of the damaged rockets.

Iraqis oust terrorists from mosque, uncover weapons caches

Courtesy story

Multi-National Division - Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Fed-up with violent and indiscriminate terror tactics, a group of more than 80 residents of the Adhamiyah District on the east side of the Iraqi capital banded together to oust suspected terrorists from a local mosque Aug. 5.

The uprising led to a string of events over the next 12 hours that ultimately resulted in the arrest of 44 suspected terrorists and the capture of three weapons caches.

The initial take-over of the Abu Hanifa Mosque occurred at approximately 2 p.m., apparently triggered by news that terrorists had murdered two relatives of a prominent local sheik. As the news spread, angry residents joined the sheik to storm the mosque, long-believed to be a sanctuary for terrorists operating in the area and ousted the suspected terrorists inside from the building.

Iraqi Army troops from the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 11th Infantry Division responded quickly to control the situation and secure the area around the mosque. Residents led them to several individuals among those ousted from the mosque, who were suspected of being involved in terrorist activities. Thirteen suspects were eventually detained.

After order was restored, the Iraqi Army received a tip about a weapons cache hidden in the vicinity of the mosque. At approximately 7 p.m., Iraqi forces returned to the Abu Hanifa Mosque and uncovered a massive illegal weapons cache in an

outside courtyard. The cache contained several already-assembled improvised explosive devices, dynamite, mortars, rockets, landmines, bomb-making materials and various weapons.

Shortly after midnight, acting on information volunteered by Adhamiyah residents, Iraqi forces and Coalition Forces from the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, attached to the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, mounted a combined cordon and search operation of the Al Assaf Mosque in the nearby Maghrib neighborhood. The mosque was entered and cleared by the Iraqi soldiers, who took three suspects into custody.

Immediately afterward, Iraqi and U.S. forces returned to the Abu Hanifa Mosque area to investigate reports of additional weapons caches. Iraqi soldiers again entered the building to search the mosque compound and the cemetery behind it.

They discovered two more weapons caches, which contained two IEDs, 16 mortars, two hand grenades, a sniper rifle, remote detonation devices, radios and more than a dozen weapons. Twenty-eight suspects were taken into custody.

"I think this was a turning point," said Lt. Col. Jeff Broadwater, commander of 3-7th Cavalry.

"The people of Adhamiyah have made their stand and they've showed by their actions that terrorists are not going to be able to come into their backyard and engage in violent acts any longer."



Web Image



Photo by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

The 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery inducted more than 40 new non-commissioned officers into the NCO Corps July 30 at FOB Q-West.

5-82nd inducts new NCOs at FOB Q-West

by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Brigade

FOB Q-WEST, Iraq — The 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery here held an Induction Ceremony for 40 new non-commissioned officers July 30 in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation theatre.

The ceremony transforms followers into leaders and is designed to impact strongly on the young non-commissioned officer inductees.

During the ceremony, many speakers addressed the importance of the ceremony and

the charge or contract they received and the purpose of the NCO creed.

"The charge represents the non-commissioned officer's contract with the corps and their promise to live by and uphold the standards of the United States Army," said Sgt. 1st Class Loius R. Dercqu, the senior resource sergeant for the 5-82nd FA and the narrator at the induction ceremony. "The creed is the standards by which a non-commissioned officer must live. It epitomizes the professional excellence of our non-commissioned officer

corps."

Sgt. Chad Holmes, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, said it felt good to finally make the rank and be inducted into the NCO Corps.

"It's been a long time waiting," said Holmes. "It feels good."

Dercqu said in his speech to newly inducted NCOs that they are to uphold the Army values and are now part of an elite group. They have become a part of the backbone of the Army.



Photo by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

First Sgt. Jon Rettmann, Alpha Battery, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry; 1st Sgt. Anthony Lopez, Bravo Btry, 5-82nd FA, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry; and 1st Sgt. Edward Kosbab, Golf Company, 27th Base Support Battalion, 5-82nd FA, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry, light candles at FOB Q-West representing the colors of our national flag and the values of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps.

At war power is luxury not entitlement

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — In the time it takes to flip a switch, it could be lights out for servicemembers here. Overuse of energy has resulted in power outages, causing delays in mission accomplishment and distressing living conditions.

“Power is not necessarily a right. It is a luxury, especially in combat operations,” said Master Sgt. Michael A. Gower, Iraq Theater noncommissioned-officer-in-charge 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power.)

He urges residents to use energy wisely. The consequences of abusing it include a reduced quality of life.

“If you like having air conditioning or TV in your room, then use some common sense and conserve,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Langlois, a prime power production specialist in the 249th.

If residents do not conserve power, they can say goodbye to all non-essential electrical equipment, such as air conditioning. This happened in June when overuse at the H4 housing area resulted in a power outage requiring 33 continuous hours of repair work. When users exhaust power, cables literally explode and burn, which in part has led to fires destroying property here.

Conserving energy goes hand-in-hand with conserving water or fuel said Langlois.



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Daniel McKinney (left), electrician and Sgt. Richard Siver (right), mechanic, both in the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) splice a three-core 11,000 volt cable during repairs after a power outage which occurred because of residents overloading the system at the H4 housing area June 2007. Prime Power Soldiers worked for 33 continuous hours to correct the problem.

Power-producing generators run on diesel fuel. Fuel is trucked in by Soldiers and civilians who convoy on supply routes known to have dangers including roadside bombs.

“Fuel is the blood of operations,” said Gower.

Conservation is not rocket

science. Some common sense tips experts at the 249th suggest include shutting off all appliances when not in use and turning off lights in rooms and hallways that are not critical. No one is implying work in the dark or stop using your coffee maker, but rather, reducing the

amount of energy you use.

“Do you really need to turn on every single light in your building? Probably not,” said Gower.

As far as air conditioning units, switch them to the lowest setting when leaving for the day instead of switching them off. If units are turned off, a massive drain on the grid resulting in a blackout might occur when units are turned up to full-blast by residents returning home after a day’s work.

Langlois also urged users to avoid laziness.

“Sometimes people get lazy and would rather leave their TV on in their trailer so that when they come back at the end of the day they don’t have to turn it on. That’s ridiculous,” said Langlois. He urges residents to be considerate and think about Soldiers on other camps where they may not have power at all or experience frequent rolling blackouts.

Unless residents conserve, more power outages are on the way, especially during critical summer months according to experts at the 249th, so be smart and help save energy.



Courtesy photo

When users exhaust power, cables literally explode and burn like the charred cable pictured above. Smoldering cables have led to fires destroying property here.

Quick power saving tips

- Set your thermostat to keep air conditioning at 80°F when it is hot outside.
- Turn off all non-essential lights, especially in empty rooms.
- Take advantage of natural light whenever possible.
- Use appliances wisely to help prevent electrical outages. Don’t forget to turn off equipment like ceiling fans, stereos, TVs, and personal computers when not in use.
- Be considerate of your buddies who convoy on dangerous roads to bring you the fuel needed to operate power-producing generators.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, 13th SC(E) commanding general, gives a speech during the 13th SC(E) transfer of authority ceremony.

“We have a tough
Our Soldiers will be
daily but, our Soldiers
well trained and com
lence. The 13th has
dation for the 316th

TOA, from Cover

tered in Fort Hood, Texas, is
passing on a well organized
and very successful system to
the 316th, said Terry.

“What the 13th has ac-
complished is simply remark-
able,” said Maj. Gen. James
Simmons, deputy command-
ing general for Multinational
Corps- Iraq. “The 13th has
executed over 35,000 combat
logistical patrols; they have
driven over 19 million miles;



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini



(Above) Col. Karen Jennings, 316th ESC deputy commanding officer and 316th ESC Command's flag during a transfer of authority ceremony here Aug. 8. The 316th ESC assumed SC(E).

(Left) The color guard stands at present arms during the transfer of authority ceremony from the

road ahead of us. e outside the wire ers are disciplined, mitted to excel- laid a great foun- to build upon.”

Col. Karen Jennings
316th ESC

they have moved over 780 million gallons of fuel, 3.2 billion gallons of bulk water, and 28 million cases of bottled water to forward operating bases throughout this country.”

The 13th SC(E) officially handing over the reins to the 316th ESC marks a new chapter for the Army, a chapter that will no doubt be very successful said Terry.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

(Above) The color guard stands at attention during the transfer of authority ceremony between the 13th SC(E) and 316th ESC. (Below) Col. Karen Jennings (right), 316th ESC deputy commanding officer and 316th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, cut a cake celebrating the 316th assumption of command of logistics in Iraq at a reception here Aug. 8.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

and Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, uncase their command of logistics in Iraq from the 13th the 13th SC(E) to the 316th ESC.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Armament Airmen keep weapons in air

by Senior Airman Olufemi A. Owolabi
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Any time weapon-release systems are due for inspections, most aircrews know it is time to consult the armament backshop Airmen.

The repair of different weapons systems to ensure they take flight and deliver airpower flawlessly also lies in the hands of armament Airmen.

When a weapons system malfunctions, breaks down or is due for inspection here, Airmen at the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron armament shop are called to take a look at it, break it down and fix it.

The shop abounds with various F-16 weapon-release systems, such as the Universal Ammunition Loader (UAL) and gun systems, Triple Ejector Rack (TER), launcher rails and the wing weapons pylons.

Armament Airmen here ensure these systems are well taken care of, either by doing (short routine) visual, mechanical and electrical inspections or by doing long inspections requiring the complete disassembling and assembling of the systems.

“Our job is to fix all aircraft weapons systems in a timely and efficient manner, so that we can get them back on the line to drop bombs,” said Airman 1st Class Joshua Ward, an armament Airman here deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan. “We fix things that load the systems too, making sure they function correctly. Take a UAL, for example; we fix it to make sure ammunition runs through it smoothly.”



Photos by Senior Airman Olufemi A. Owolabi

Airman 1st Class Joshua Ward, a 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron armament Airman, checks an F-16 Fighting Falcon universal ammunition loader to ensure it meets the criteria set by the technical order. Ward and other armament Airmen are responsible for maintaining, inspecting and fixing F-16s weapon systems here.

To assemble and disassemble weapons systems, the armament shop has equipment such as electrical testers

and tool boxes, which the 20-member team of Airmen put to work every day.

“It all depends on the complexity of the system,” said Airman 1st Class David Lewis, an armament technician also deployed from Misawa AB. “The type of tool we use and the time it takes to finish a repair all depends on the system we’re working on. We can turn a weapons system around in one or two hours easily. If it is a complicated part or an electrical problem, such as a TER, it takes a couple of days; sometimes we have to wait on parts.”

The TER is a weapon suspension unit hooked up to main racks or pylons, which contains more than 500 mechanical and electro-mechanical components. The TER can carry up to three weapons, and it has a single-drop capability,

which allows aircrews to drop the three bombs, one at a time.

“Whenever any equipment comes into our shop, it is either because it’s broken or malfunctioning, and we have to fix it,” said Lewis. “For this reason, we work faster and smarter all the time.”

According to these technicians, the UAL takes more time than the TER during repair work to disassemble and assemble because they have to clean and remove excessive grease in the UAL after its repair.

Because it is very hot and dusty here, UALs are more susceptible to jamming, and this means armament Airmen are always working to repair or inspect them, said Ward.

The techniques involved in fixing weapons systems enables armament Airmen to develop the urge to learn how

“Our job is to fix all aircraft weapons systems in a timely and efficient manner, so that we can get them back on the line to drop bombs.”

Airman 1st Class Joshua Ward
332nd EMS

each system works in order to make their repairs go faster.

“Airmen in our career field need to be mechanically inclined, dedicated, focused and ready for anything,” said Tech. Sgt. Jyrlyn Greene, an armament technician deployed from Oklahoma Air National Guard’s 138th Fighter Wing, Tulsa, Okla. “You never know when equipment will break on the flightline, and our Airmen have to be ready to act on any scenario. Knowing all the systems very well will allow them to act quickly.”

Besides knowing how a particular system works, Lewis said their job is like every other job in the Air Force because it requires teamwork to get the job done on time. He also described how his unit and others work closely during Operation Iraqi Freedom like a big family coming together to accomplish the mission.

“We fix it (the weapon system); the people on the flightline load it, and the pilot drops it on target to accomplish the mission,” he said.

For Lewis, his satisfaction of the job comes when a system comes in with a complicated problem, and they are able to fix it quickly. Knowing that these technicians can be really fast, efficiently fixing all the weapon systems here and helping the mission get back on track is what makes an expeditionary armament technician mission-critical, he said.

Though the job is a lot more stressful here because they do more troubleshooting here than at their home-duty station, with teamwork, they still get the job done ahead of schedule, said Lewis.

“Without teamwork, we can’t execute the mission,” said Ward, “and without us in the armament shop repairing these systems, F-16s would just be ordinary aircraft; they wouldn’t have weapons or missiles to fire off and wouldn’t be able to provide air support to ground forces.”



Photos by Senior Airman Olufemi A. Owolabi

Airman 1st Class David Lewis examines an F-16 Fighting Falcon triple ejector rack during a routine inspection of weapon systems in the armament shop here.

Outdoor pool: T-walls become concrete canvas

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Despite long work hours and urgent missions, servicemembers still find time to create artwork, infusing the monotone landscape here with a shot of color there.

“Yes, we are at war, but even through war, art makes life more beautiful,” said Spc. Faun Venuti, intelligence analyst, 15th Military Intelligence Battalion.

A Myrtle Beach, S.C. native and avid beachgoer, Venuti designed the concept for a beach-themed mural with the intent to expand it over every concrete wall at the outdoor pool here.

Venuti hopes the design will promote relaxation and a feeling of safety, she said. The scene includes hammocks, green trees, blue skies (which are not often visible here) and white waves in blue water.

“It’s something that, for just a moment, may take away the stress of deployment,” said Air Force Capt. Paul Candelaria, sexual assault response coordinator, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Candelaria has volunteered his artistic skill for the benefit of others since high school. In addition to the beach mural at the pool, he is currently painting one depicting the Garden of Eden at the Air Force Chapel.

“I want people to say ‘this reminds me of when I lived in San Diego, or perhaps ‘I want to go on vacation to the beach with my family when I get back,’” Candelaria said of the pool mural.

Venuti encourages servicemembers who may feel they lack talent to participate in creating art.

“I’m not a good artist but



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Air Force Capt. Paul Candelaria, sexual assault response coordinator, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, prepares paint to be used for a beach-themed mural being painted at the outdoor pool here Aug. 4.

that’s not the point. The beauty of the project is that you don’t need to have major artistic skill since it doesn’t take a lot

to paint sand and water,” she said. “Sure, the details will be painted by those who are more experienced, but it’s everybody’s mural. So please, for the love of God, come out and paint!”

The initial design will cover nine concrete walls. Candelaria said that creating murals

throughout Balad helps him unwind because it is different from his usual duties, which include helping military victims of sexual assault throughout the country.

Candelaria and Venuti hope future rotations will continue enhancing and expanding the mural until it spans over every concrete wall at the pool.



Photos by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

(Above and right) Air Force Capt. Paul Candelaria, sexual assault response coordinator, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, paints a portion of a beach-themed mural at the outdoor pool here Aug. 4.



Local leaders meet, discuss Baqouba issues

Courtesy story

Multi-National Division – North PAO

BAQOUBA, Iraq — About 30 local leaders including Mayor Abdullah, Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers, Iraqi policemen (IP) and neighborhood leaders, participated in a town hall meeting held in western Baqouba Aug. 2.

It is the first time such a meeting was held and initiated completely by Iraqi leadership in the city. U.S. commanders and leaders from various Baqouba neighborhoods, called muqtars, were present.

The muqtars discussed key issues that affect the city’s residents, such as the youth of Baqouba, availability of food and drinking water, civic services, security and unemployment.

One muqtar at the meeting said, “It was good to have this meeting because it allowed leaders to come together and discuss things that needed to be discussed.”

Another muqtar brought up the issue of Baqouba’s youth: “Why don’t we get the youth involved with the IA or the IP?” he asked. “Don’t let the youth sitting around doing nothing,” he suggested because if they do they will be recruiting targets for al-Qaida.

“This was an incredible success in many ways,” said Lt. Col. Fred Johnson, deputy commander for 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash. “This meeting was a success because the Iraqi Army is here to support not only with security, but also by providing services to the citizens.

“(Lt. Col.) Smiley and I have been all over Iraq. I think he will agree with me that there’s no better Iraqi force than the 5th Iraqi Army to provide services for the people,” said Johnson. Smiley is the commander of 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, part of the Stryker brigade.

Since July 29, humanitarian efforts in the city continued as well. IA and U.S. Soldiers have distributed 70,000 kg each of rice and flour as part of Operation Arrowhead Ripper.



Photos by Sgt. Marcus Butler

Iraqi Army Soldiers and Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, walk the roads of the Chaka III area of Iraq during joint Operation Algeria III Aug. 4 as part of Operation Marne Avalanche. The IA-led operation was focused on searching and securing the area from any insurgent activity.

IA find night vision goggles, detain two during Operation Marne Avalanche

Courtesy story

Multi-National Division - Center

KALSU, Iraq — Iraqi soldiers joined U.S. Soldiers from Task Force Steel in a joint operation dubbed Algeria III in support of Operation Marne Avalanche Aug. 4 in the Chaka III region of North Babil, to secure the area from insurgent activity.

Soldiers from 8th Iraqi Army Division and Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, moved from house to house searching for any presence of insurgent activity or violations of the rule of law set forth by

the Iraqi government.

“This operation was one of the biggest operations our company has done with Iraqi Security Forces,” said Capt. Jim Browning, commander, Company A. “Everything on this mission was totally led by the Iraqi Army. We were just there for support.”

This Iraqi-led operation yielded one pair of night vision goggles, three detainees and five AK-47 assault rifles with ammunition.

“The operation was a complete success,” Browning said. “The Iraqi Army soldiers have made vast improvements since we last conducted an operation with them and I am confident that they will only continue to get better.”

MNF-I CSM visits 15th SB for induction ceremony

by Spc. Karly Cooper

15th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Multi National Force-Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill paid a visit to Camp Taji Aug. 2.

During his trip, Hill served as guest speaker for the 867th Corps Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade’s non-commissioned officers induction ceremony.

“Leaders need to know the standard, exemplify the standard, and enforce the standard,” said Hill.

Hill also spoke about what it takes to be a good NCO and the importance of set-

“Leaders need to know the standard, exemplify the standard and enforce the standard.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill
MNC-I

ting the standard and leading by example.

“When standards start getting circumvented and the fundamentals are no longer enforced, then shortcuts start getting made,” he stated.

Fundamental standards such as appearance, weapons maintenance, drill and

ceremony, enable the sergeant to empower his or her piece of the Army.

“So as we move on, I want you to remember three things: take pride in your uniform, take pride in your Soldiers, and take pride in yourself,” said Hill.

Know the standard, be the standard, and enforce the standard were three points Hill stressed to the newly inducted NCOs.

“He reminded the new inductees and all present to always uphold the standards. His words and thoughts remind us that we are all to bear the standard without fail,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Joseph, 15th SB.

On the street with Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

“What do you like best about Anaconda?”

Sgt. 1st Class Rex Bowman
316th ESC



“What’s not to love? The DFACs, the gyms, the MWR facilities, the laundry facility...I was in Desert Storm and I tell you what, we didn’t have all of this stuff.”

Sgt. Rolanda M. Stone
125th Finance Battalion



“I really like the beauty shop because you can get a facial here and it’s not expensive and really relaxing. I also like Hip Hop Night at the MWR.”

Sgt. Humberto Lopez
38th Engineer Company



“I like the two PXs and the swimming pool. We don’t have a pool at Taji, so I like coming to LSA Anaconda. You all have it good.”

Shout outs from home

Rainbows: God's promise to mankind. If you are having a hard day, remember there are promises given to us that are greater than we will ever know. Keep your chin up and stay positive. We all love you and admire the great deal you put up with to be a United States Soldier. It is not an easy job, as any spouse can attest to. Remember, we love you and we miss you. Our prayers are with each and every one of you. Stay safe! God bless!
Sheryl, Nikki, Joey Siebrasse

Amador Nava III
I just want to say I love you and miss you much... I can't wait 'til your home.
Your loving wife, Melissa

Bradley Dees
Hi Ada! When I grow up, I wanna be just like you. See? I'm already in training! I can hang on the single bar for almost 30 seconds and can climb just about anything. I miss you and love you, and I'm looking forward to

finally getting to know you!
XO, Logan Dees

Jerime Frost
We are praying for you every day to be protected while over there. We miss you so much. We cannot wait to see you again. Please write soon, would love to hear from you.
-The Eaton Family and all the Frost Families

Terry Casto
I miss you very much. I can't wait for you to come home soon. I love you very much. Your wife, Rena

My awesome hero
Christopher Pressley.
Baby, I miss you so much! Thank you for your faith, commitment and dedication to our relationship. Thank you, Pressley and everyone in Iraq for making a difference for our future generations and definitely

the services that you provide! Lots of love from California! "I am greatly obliged to you, and to all who have come forward at the call of their country." - Abraham Lincoln.
Julie C. Tsai

To the greatest Dad and Husband Happy Birthday **Thomas Irvin** we love and miss you very much, have a good one.
Love always, Muriel, Trista, Dylan and Maisie!

Matthew C. Hensinger
We miss you and hope you had a good birthday. We love you and send you lots of hugs and kisses!
Love, Brenda, Jacob, Jaydon and Dominic

April Moody
Another month passes where we're away, another month passes that draws us nearer!
Loving and missing you!

Jerrime Bishop
Happy Anniversary **Christopher Finklea!** I Love so very much. We are praying for you!
Love You, Kendra Finklea

Raymond Pettit
We love you and miss you very much. We support you in your service for your country and your family. As long as there are Soldiers such as you, "Let Freedom always ring!!!"
Love, Mom and Dad

Eric S. Foulks
We love and miss you more than words can say and can't wait till you are home again. Love your wife and daughter,
Desiree & Carrie Foulks

Justin Ingles
We've been together going on 9 years and I'm so very lucky to have you. Being apart really makes us

appreciate what we have together. But I want you home soon! Kick butt over there! We all love you and miss you very much, and are so proud of you!
Love, Ria

Austin Goodhart
We love and miss you! Love Precious, Jewel and Letitia

Ryan Brescher
We love you! We are so very proud of you. You are in our hearts and thoughts always. We miss you. Return to us safely!!
Love, Bryanne & kids

Marquita Thompson
We would like you to know you are well missed by loved ones, friends, and family members. We encourage you to continue to be strong and stay focused. We are so proud of you. Keep the faith and take care of yourself. God bless you and we love you to life. Our prayers are with you.
Mom, Dad, and LT



SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, August 15
5 p.m. Surf's Up (PG)
8 p.m. Waitress (PG-13)

Thursday, August 16
5 p.m. Mr. Brooks (R)
8 p.m. Bourne Ultimatum (PG-13)

Friday, August 17
2 p.m. Knocked Up (R)
5 p.m. Surf's Up (PG)
8:30 p.m. Rush Hour 3 (PG-13)

Saturday, August 18
2 p.m. Waitress (PG-13)
5 p.m. Rush Hour 3 (PG-13)
8 p.m. Ocean's 13 (PG-13)

Sunday, August 19
2 p.m. Rush Hour 3 (PG-13)
5 p.m. Ocean's 13 (PG-13)
8 p.m. Surf's Up (PG)

Monday, August 20
5 p.m. Rush Hour 3 (PG-13)
8 p.m. Knocked Up (R)

Tuesday, August 21
5 p.m. Surf's Up (PG-13)
8 p.m. Rush Hour 3 (PG-13)

Jenny, the Military Spouse
<http://jennyspouse.com>

Day Care Woes, pt. 2 Copyright©2007 Julie L. Negron, all rights reserved

Pvt. Murphy's Law
<http://www.pvtmurphy.com>

Back of the Formation
Spc. Brian Wilson, 206th ASMC

August 15

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

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

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

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m., West MWR

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

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

R&B Music
8:30 p.m., H-6 MWR

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

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

August 16

Tae Kwon Do
Midnight, East Fitness Center

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

Intermediate Swim Lessons
6 p.m., Indoor Pool

Soccer and Tennis
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

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

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

Combatives Training

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

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

8:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

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

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

August 17

Texas Hold'em
2 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.,
H-6 MWR

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

Country Night
8:30 p.m., H-6 MWR

Open Volleyball
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

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

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

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

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

Scrabble Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Chess, Spades and
Dominoes
8 p.m., West MWR

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

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

August 18

Pilates
11 a.m., West Fitness
Center

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

Basketball Tourney
7 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Salsa Dance Class
7 p.m., East MWR

Tae Kwon Do
7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Screaming Eagle Poker
7:30 p.m., East MWR

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

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

August 19

Darts and Foosball
8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., H-6
MWR

Capoiera
12 p.m., East Fitness Center

Ryu Ryu
2 p.m., East Fitness Center

Aerobics
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

Poker
7 p.m., East MWR

Poetry Night
7 p.m., East MWR

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

Swing Dance (Advanced)
8 p.m., East Fitness Center
(Aerobics Room)

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

August 20

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

H6 MWR

Tae Kwon Do
Midnight, 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

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

Karaoke
8 p.m., East MWR

Poetry Jam
8 p.m., West MWR

Floor Hockey
8 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

August 21

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

Kung Fu
7 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do
7p.m., East Fitness Center

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

Swing Dance (Basic)
8 p.m., East Recreation Center

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

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

Balad Idol
8:30 p.m., H-6 MWR

August 22

Spades & Ping Pong
2 a.m., 2 p.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 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

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

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

Did we forget a class?

If you don't see your
favorite MWR class
or activity here, let us
know.

E-mail us:

[anaconda.times@iraq.
centcom.mil](mailto:anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil)



Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Local Iraqis provide labor, insight for Coalition soldiers

by Spc. Robert H. Baumgartner

82nd Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ADDER, Iraq — Local Iraqis have been contracted to furnish projects here in an effort to strengthen the local economy, as well as their relationship with the Coalition Forces.

Many local Iraqis are hired to work on construction projects all over Camp Adder. A variety of projects, from constructing buildings and laying concrete sidewalks, to wood-working office furniture and rewiring electronics are handled by local Iraqis contracted by the military. These new jobs are helping the Iraqi people regain a foothold in a region economically devastated by the Saddam Hussein government.

Ayad Hasan Jobain, an Iraqi engineer and contract supervisor from An Nasiriyah, has seen significant improvement in the local economy since workers have been hired from the area.

“There is significant opportunities now. The people in my neighborhood like the fact that the Coalition has provided us projects and the contracts to build them,” Jobain said.

“When the Americans first came, we did not know what to think about them. But they are giving us jobs and paying us good. What kind of an enemy would do that,” Jobain



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix A. Figueroa

An Iraqi welder ties down a support beam during a recent reconstruction project on Camp Adder Iraq. Coalition forces hire local nationals in an attempt to provide economic stability and deter terrorists recruitment.

reasoned.

For the Soldiers tasked with escorting the local Iraqis around the post, their duty provides them with an opportunity to interact with and gain some

insight in to the Iraqi people.

“I had heard so many stories about the Iraqi people before I deployed and started working with them,” said Sgt. Virgil Swisher, mechanic, 82nd Sustainment Brigade.

“It didn’t take long for me to realize that most of the things I heard weren’t true. The people I’ve been dealing with are skilled and hard working. They are definitely not as bad as people made them out to be,” said the Madison, Wis. native.

According to Swisher, when he redeploys, he will have the satisfaction of knowing he did something to make life better for the Iraqi people.

“Not only did I learn to understand and tolerate an extremely different culture, religion, and way of life...I also helped out Iraqis and their kids. I helped contribute to a brighter future,” he said

For Jobain, it isn’t just about receiving a pay check. It is about securing a future for the

Iraqi labor force by forcing the workers to acquire skills in order to be successful in a competitive market.

“I like to hire people with skills instead of buying machines to do the work. This way I am in a position to provide opportunity that gives my people hope to do the same in the future. The more skills you have, the more opportunities to get hired and support your family, just like in America,” Jobain said.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Felix A. Figueroa

(Above) An Iraqi construction crew welds together the finishing touches of a building project on Camp Adder, Iraq.

(Left) An Iraqi construction crew prepare to install another support beam during a reconstruction project on Camp Adder, Iraq. The project not only enables Iraqis to financially support their families, but also fosters positive relations between Iraqis and Coalition Forces.

Training Iraqi forces at Camp Thrasher



Navy Photos by Mass Communication Specialist Eli J. Medellin

(Above) Iraqi scouts reload their magazines during advanced firearms training conducted by U.S. Special Operations Forces (pictured right) at Camp Thrasher near Fallujah, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Eli J. Medellin

An Iraqi scout prepares his weapon during a course in advanced firearms conducted by U.S. Special Operations Forces near Fallujah, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Eli J. Medellin

An Iraqi scout reloads his magazines during advanced firearms training conducted by U.S. Special Operations Forces at Camp Thrasher near Fallujah, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Navy Photos by Mass Communication Specialist Eli J. Medellin

(Above) Iraqi scouts fire at targets during a course in advanced firearms conducted by U.S. Special Operations Forces near Fallujah, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Right) An Iraqi scout waits to check his target during a course in advanced firearms conducted by U.S. Special Operations Forces near Fallujah, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

