



Celebrating a month of culture

Soldiers expand horizons, share Hispanic traditions

Story, photos by
Army Spc. Kimberly Millett
89th MP Bde.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, the Human Relations Office and the 89th Military Police Brigade sponsored an evening of cultural awareness, demonstrations and ethnic cuisine Oct. 5 in Al Faw Palace.

The month, celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, coincides with the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

“During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize Hispanic Americans for helping to shape our national character and make our communities stronger,” said guest speaker Col. Miguel Isaac, deputy program director of the Logistics Civilian Augmentation Program and native of San Juan, Puerto Rico. “The warmth and vitality of the Hispanic culture are great gifts



Army Sgt. 1st Class Johanna Wilson, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade communications security custodian, and Army Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Reyes, 3rd Infantry Division EO advisor, demonstrate salsa dancing.



Soldiers take a break from their meals to try their salsa dancing in the Al Faw Palace ballroom during an evening of cultural awareness Oct. 5.

to America and are part of the unique fabric of our country.”

During his presentation, Isaac highlighted heroes throughout U.S. military history like Hispanic servicemember Loretta Janeta Velasquez, a Cuban-born woman who masqueraded as a male Confederate Soldier during the Civil War to fight for her country, to current heroes like Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary Villalobos, a Hispanic Soldier who earned the Silver Star June 7, 2005, for gallantry in combat while outnumbered by insurgents in Tal Afar, Iraq.

Army Sgt. Donald Rizzo, a Chico, Calif., native and military policeman for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 89th MP Brigade, enjoyed the presentation, especially learning about the Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients.

“It showed how much Hispanics contribute not just to the Armed Services, but to the entire country,” he said.

In addition to the presentation, those in attendance were treated to a musical performance featuring Hispanic dance and musical styles. Army Sgt. Jesus

Martes, 1st Cavalry Division Band vocalist and San Juan, Puerto Rico, native, accompanied three pairs of dancers as they demonstrated meringue, bachata, salsa and tejano dancing.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Fernando Santiago, Navy Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center personnel specialist, said he found the event inspiring.

“I liked how they explained the history of the dances,” said the Los Angeles native. “I know the dances but a lot of people are not familiar with their background.”

Attendees were welcome to try an array of Hispanic food, including fajitas, enchiladas and quesadillas.

“As we speak, thousands of men and women of Hispanic heritage are placing their boots on the ground in more than 120 countries around the world in the war on terrorism,” Isaac said. “They are bringing freedom to people in other countries, making major sacrifices, and risking their lives to bring justice to terrorists and lay a foundation for a sustainable peace. They join the proud ranks of past heroes.”

Commentary

Heard on the streets of Victory. . . *If you could change your name, what would it be?*



“Robert. I would have preferred to be named after my father.”

**Army Col. Martin Wilson
Plans and Policy
MNC-I**



“I would not change my name because it’s who I am.”

**Army Staff Sgt. Jose Avila
MNF-I CG
Commo**



“Isabella. It shows class and chic and if you call me Bella, it means beautiful.”

**Navy Senior CPO Glenda Atwood
MNF-I SCJS
ESD NCOIC**

“My mother put Anita and Arlene together. Arlene was her friend in school. So I wouldn’t change it.”

**Navy Chief PO Arnita Waters
MNF-I SCJS
Supply NCOIC**



“Scott. I want my middle name to be my first name.”

**Marine Col. Robert Buran
Deputy C-3
MNC-I**



“I like my first name, I wouldn’t change it.”

**Air Force Master Sgt. Michael McNeil
MNF-I SCJS
NCOIC**



Chaplain’s Corner

Affections of the Heart

Army Chaplain Kimon Nicolaides

MNC-I Victory Chapel

Jonathan Edwards, an eighteenth century American theologian, once said, “True religion resides in the affections of the heart.”

What does that mean? Let us try to understand what he meant by defining the terms ‘affections’ and ‘heart.’ These two words have completely different meanings from what culture teaches us. Here, affections are not referring to emotions, nor is the heart merely the seat of the emotions.

In fact, the word ‘heart,’ as it is used in the Bible, means something entirely different from what our contemporary society associates with that term. For example, it would be

quite incongruent to think of someone as having a faithful heart, but at the same time having a cheating mind, because the heart encompasses the core essence of who we really are in our true identities. Therefore, the mind is but one part of the heart.

In defining the biblical meaning of the word heart, we would include the emotions, the mind, the will and the conscience. The heart is capable of thinking, knowing, feeling, acting and turning, which indicates an act of the will.

The heart is the seat of the emotions, but it is also the seat of the mind, as well as the seat of the will, because it is the control center for our whole life. It contains our core foundational system of beliefs, commitments and values. It controls our mind, our will, and our emotions. How our heart is structured and aligned determines not so much

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Bringing Ramadan fellowship to TF 62 troops Medical Bde. hosts breaking-of-the-fast celebration

Story, photo by Army Spc. Stephanie Homan

MNC-IPAO

Task Force 62 Medical Brigade and the Iraqi-American Task Force Bilingual Bicultural Advisors-Subject Matter Experts held a breaking of the fast celebration and feast in celebration of Ramadan for TF 62 Soldiers and the Iraqi Ground Forces Command Surgeon's office on Oct. 4 at Camp Victory.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk; this includes eating, drinking and sexual intercourse.

Fasting is an important part of the convention of Ramadan, said Karim Al Waeli, TF 62 cultural advisor. He explained how it is a cleansing time of year when he feels in his best physical shape.

"It is a vacation for the stomach that helps build stamina because you must continue to work all day without normal nourishment," he said. "I feel healthier during Ramadan, and it helps support other people around the world in starving countries."

TF 62 commander, Army Col. Patrick Sargent, is all around pleased with the interaction of his unit and IQATF. He said they play an important role to the brigade in many ways and he is grateful for their support.

"IQATF is very instrumental to TF 62's secondary mission, which is helping facilitate and improve Iraqi health care at the provincial level," he said. "They provide us information about the needs of local physicians and what the locals need."

The Iraqi Americans working with TF 62 displayed customary Ramadan practice to the Soldiers of the medical brigade, said Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bryan, TF 62 Med. Bde. civil military operations.

The festivities included traditional food, fellowship and games for the holiday.

"A lot of the Soldiers never have an opportunity to go



Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bryan, Task Force 62 civil military operations, listens as Maher Al Shahan and Nahla Yousif, Iraqi American Task Force Bilingual Bicultural Advisors Subject Matter Experts, explain customs of Ramadan and traditional food that is prepared during the holiday at a social gathering for Ramadan at Camp Victory Oct. 4. The mankla is a traditional Iraqi grill on which meat is prepared.

outside and interact with the Iraqi people, so members of the Iraqi American Task Force wanted to bring the traditions of Ramadan to our Soldiers here," he said. "They wanted to put on a traditional Iraqi feast to show their support for the Soldiers."

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our emotions as it does our motives. To understand the alignment of our heart, we could test our disposition under certain conditions. For instance, if we find it very difficult to deal with criticism, which means we place a high value upon our image, or upon the approval of others.

Edwards would say that we have placed the affections of our heart upon the approval of others.

In biblical terms, this is called idolatry; from God's perspective the heart is designed primarily for the purpose

of worship and he claims exclusive rights on that prerogative. The heart is actually always on the look out for something to worship if it is not fully satisfied with whatever it has already attached its affections to. Whatever it finds to be the most beautiful, or desirable would be the object of its worship.

What about you? What is the focus of your worship? What drives you? What motivates you? What are you most committed to? What are you really after? What have you set your deepest hopes on? What do you find to be the most beautiful and attractive

thing in life? What is the most important thing to you? What really gives you meaning and purpose in life?

You will find out where your heart really is once you determine what it is you have the deepest longings and desires for. If we let the object of our worship be anything or anyone other than Jesus Christ, than we will always continue to be seeking because no one else can ever come close to fully satisfying our heart. Only he can and will fully satisfy all of our deepest desires if we let him.

If we doubt that, it is because we have yet to discover who he really is.

Servicemembers, Civilians gather for 2007 Army Ten-Mile Shadow run

750 stride to finish line, complete shadow run around Camp Victory, Liberty

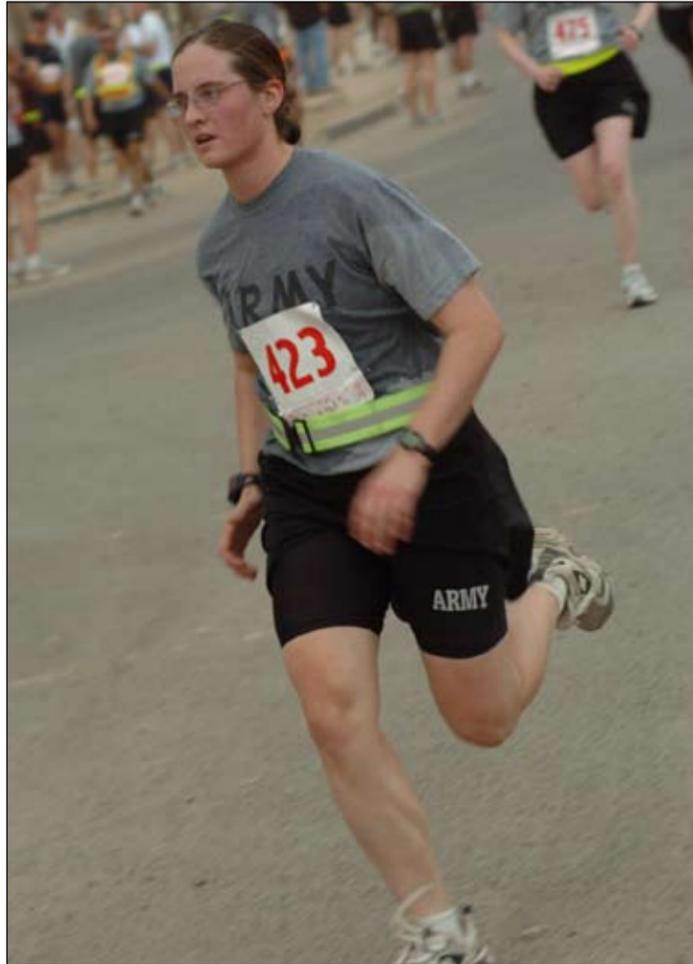


Photo by Army Spc. Stephanie Homan

Army Capt. Aimee Ruscio picks up the pace as she sprints to the finish line of the Victory Ten-Miler Oct. 7 at Camp Victory.

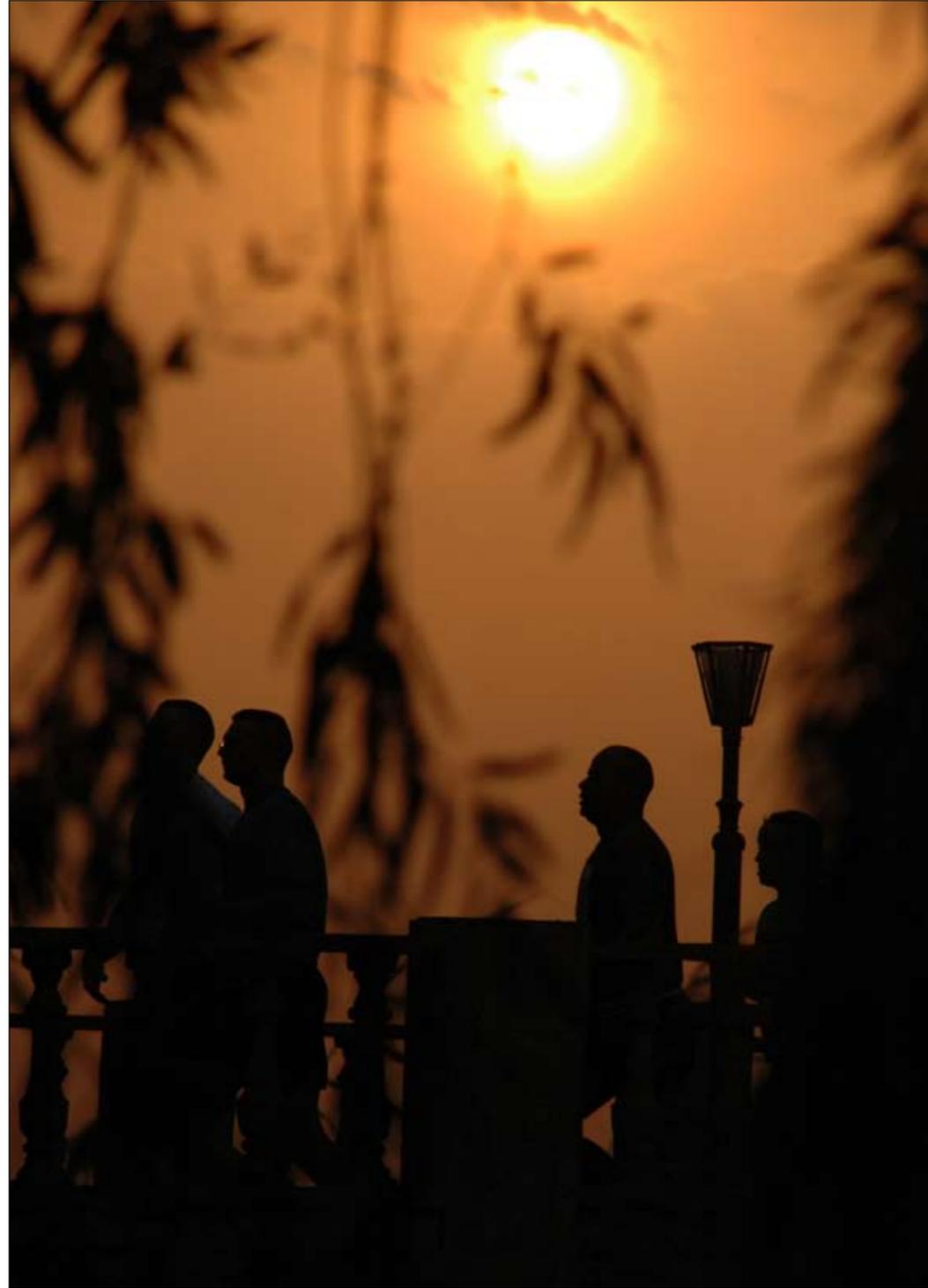


Photo by Army Master Sgt. Dennis Beebe

Runners participating in the Victory Ten-Miler cross a bridge at the dawn of day at Camp Victory. The run was a "shadow run" of the 23rd Annual Army Ten-Miler held in Washington, D.C. 750 participants gathered at Camp Victory to run in the 2007 Army Ten-Miler shadow run Oct. 7.

Just before the Baghdad sunrise, more than 700 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Civilians crowded around the start point for the beginning of the Camp Victory Ten-Miler 2007 shadow run.

The run was held in conjunction with the 23rd annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C. The run, which starts and finishes at the Pentagon, is the largest 10-mile run in the United States.

Camp Victory Mayor's Cell had more than 800 registered runners from Victory Base Complex but only around 750 actually participated. The actual Army Ten-Miler in Washington D.C. supported more than 26,000 runners in heatwave weather.

Victory Base Complex Top Finishers

Male	Female
Juan Colunga (77) 00:58:31	Nancy Salisbury (178) 01:13:09
Landon Nordby (751) 01:00:34	Maritza Lagares (260) 01:13:57
Roderick Reeves (492) 01:01:28	MaryGrace Tilman (34) 01:14:21
Luis Navarro (7) 01:03:55	Michelle Digruttolo (547) 01:16:24
Jeremy Newton (534) 01:04:58	Kim Cox-Curry (181) 01:16:43



Photo by Army Master Sgt. Dennis Beebe

Participants run through water point on Victory Ten-Miler route at Camp Victory Oct. 7. The route had several water points on the 10 mile route that wound through Camp Victory and Camp Liberty.



Photo by Army Master Sgt. Dennis Beebe

Runners push through mile four of the Victory Ten-Miler as they run toward Strawberry Hill on Camp Liberty.

En route to revival Joint efforts putting BIAP back on radar

Story, photo by Army
Spc. Laura M. Bigenho

28th Public Affairs
Detachment

For more than 15 years, Baghdad International Airport has been virtually inactive. After years of trafficking very limited aircraft to and from the airport, Coalition Forces set out to change the way the world sees Baghdad by placing it back in the business race one project at a time.

Army Lt. Col. Jack Pflaumer, BIAP reconstruction deputy director, 358th Civil Affairs Brigade, has seen a lot of progress since efforts began in 2005. With the grand opening of a business center and plans to build a new office tower, hotel and two convention centers, the Langhorn, Pa., native said BIAP is well on its way to rejoining the international business community.

Pflaumer said his team has two objectives: getting BIAP recertified internationally and establishing a commercial economic zone.

In doing so, the airport would become the gateway to Iraq while bringing international companies and investors in for the economic recovery effort.

"Our overall (goal) is to reconnect Iraq to the international community, attract businesses that are needed to rebuild this country, create jobs, and teach the Iraqis the standard they need in order to reestablish themselves into the international community," Pflaumer said.

With the opening of the BIAP Business Center, Pflaumer



A view of Baghdad International Airport and parts of the construction site can be seen from the former Iraqi Airways Accounting Department. The efforts are part of a plan to get Baghdad back in the international business community by making BIAP the international gateway to Baghdad.

mer said visiting companies and investors will have an opportunity to meet in a safe area without having to travel to downtown Baghdad.

Once reconstruction efforts are complete, they will also have access to nearby convention centers, lodging and an eight-story office building for those who plan to maintain a presence in Baghdad.

While reconstruction is key to getting BIAP back on track, it is only part of the plan. Terry Biggio, Federal Aviation Administration advisor, BIAP, has been working on the aviation side of the project.

Since the Nashua, N.H., native arrived nearly three months ago, he has been helping train Iraqis on the control center and in the tower – a crucial piece of the puzzle in rebuilding BIAP.

"(The Iraqis) haven't used

radar in this area since 1991, so this is a major step forward for this country in regaining sovereignty," Biggio said.

In order for Iraqis to achieve that step, they must first receive certification from the International Civil Aviation Organization, aviation's governing body.

"We are going to work with them to make sure they are ICAO-compliant so that their aviation system moves up," Biggio said.

Pflaumer said that although security remains an issue, BIAP is relatively safe. Global Security and Iraqi Police forces provide security throughout the airport while fire and emergency medical services are on hand for emergencies.

Khaldoon Yousif, BIAP director, Baghdad, said he recognizes the safety concern, but assures others of

security measures to keep travelers safe.

Yousif said he wants to see BIAP catch up to other airports around the world.

"This is something I wish people back home could see," Biggio said. "Just opening up the business center was a monumental occasion, and now being able to talk to controllers who haven't controlled air space in 15 years; to see them in that radar environment talking with their hands is exciting."

Pflaumer said it's a sign Iraqis are continuing to make progress in taking back their country.

"We really want to see the government move forward, and we're seeing signs of that occurring at the airport," he said. "They are (almost) ready to take over the job of economic recovery of rebuilding their country. It's very encouraging."

Announcements

Men and Women's Night Out

The Victory Gospel Experience is hosting Men's Night Out Oct. 31 from 7-9 p.m and a Women's Night Out Nov. 2 from 7-9 p.m. at the Al Faw Palace Ballroom. The evening will feature several guest speakers discussing everyday topics men and women deal with.

For more information, contact Army Sgt. 1st Class Terrence Hayes at 822-1111 or Army Maj. Sharon Smith at 822-2473.

Halloween Bash

Come out to enjoy the MWR 124 Halloween Bash Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. MWR 51 will also host a Halloween Fright Night 8:30 p.m. with an outdoor movie located across from the Food Court.

Airman in-processing

The Air Force personnel element conducts biweekly in-processing for all Airmen, Mondays, from 3-3:30 p.m., at Building 45.

Contact the personnel element at 446-3623 to be scheduled.

Attention, Marines

The Warrior Transition Brief is now a mandatory part of checking out. This brief will take place with the chaplain no earlier than 30 days from your redeployment.

Failure to complete the Warrior Transi-

tion Brief may result in the delay of your redeployment.

For more information, contact Marine Cpl. Ronda Martinez at 822-2030 or Marine Master Sgt. Todd Turner at 822-2032.

Cartoonist wanted

The Phantom News is looking for artistically talented troops. If you have potential to create a comic strip and boost troop morale, email your work to Marine Cpl. Darhonda Rodela at darhonda.rodela@iraq.centcom.mil.

For more information, call 822-1111.

Test your smoke alarms

All smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month to make sure they operate properly. If a smoke alarm is battery operated, replace the batteries at least once a year to make sure the alarm will work when it is needed.

For more information, call Army Capt. Dathan Black at 822-3589.

Mail Handler's Class

Mail Handler's Class is every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the Victory Mayor Cell Conference Room, Building 12A. Only 20 people per class are accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.

Immunization hours change

The Golby TMC Immunization hours have changed to Monday through Saturday, 1330-1630. If you need your shots updated, check and print your MEDPROS information off AKO prior to your arrival. Also bring your DD-2766, Deployment Medical File, and PHS-731, International Shot Record, for updating.

Camp Victory MWR 124 events

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Texas Hold'em Tournament 8 p.m.	Karaoke Night 8:30 p.m.	Madden '07 Football Tournament 7:30 p.m.	Country Night 8 p.m.	Latin Night 8 p.m.	Grown Folks Saturday 8:30 p.m.	Madden '07 Football Tournament Finals 7:30 p.m.

Do you have an announcement about an event of interest to the Camp Victory community? Contact Cpl. Darhonda Rodela at darhonda.rodela@iraq.centcom.mil with the information. Information for community announcements needs to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event to allow for timely publication.

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Education Center
8 a.m.-midnight

Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center
Open 24 Hours

Victory Main Post Office
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

MNC-I STB Mailroom
9 a.m. - noon
5 - 7 p.m.

Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
1-6 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post-Deployment Health Briefings
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Legal Assistance/Claims
Saturday-Monday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers
Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards
Monday-Friday 6 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Worship Hours

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)
Sunday
7 a.m.....Collective Protestant
8:45 a.m.....Collective Protestant
10 a.m.....Catholic Confession
10:30 a.m.....Catholic Mass
noon.....Gospel Protestant
2 p.m.....Latter Day Saints
4 p.m.....Episcopal/Lutheran
6:30 p.m.....Contemporary Protestant

Saturday
11 a.m.....Seventh Day Adventist
8 p.m.....Catholic Mass

Mini Chapel (Bldg. 24F)
Sunday
9:30 a.m.....Breaking of Bread
3 p.m.....Church of Christ
7:30 p.m.....Latter Day Saints
7 p.m.....Knights of Columbus
(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Monday-Friday
11:30 p.m.....Daily Mass

Friday
6:30 p.m.....Jewish Service

AFN Freedom Radio

Al Asad, Ali Base, Ar Ramadi, Baghdad, Balad, Kirkuk, Kirkush, Taji, Tal Afar, Taqqadam..... 107.3
Tikrit..... 100.1
Fallujah, Mosul..... 105.1
Q-West..... 93.3

TF Tigers attack Untouchables, 18-0

Untouchables receive second loss in double elimination

Story, photos by
Marine Cpl. Darhonda Rodela
 MNC-I PAO

The TF Tigers remained in the tournament as they kicked the Untouchables out after reigning victory 18-0 during a flag football game at the Staff Sgt. Cassell Field Oct. 8.

Once on the field, the TF Tigers applied pressure to the Untouchables and started the game with a blast.

After only two minutes in the game, Cornell Evans, Tigers quarterback, received a toss from Sylvester Herrera, TF Tigers quarterback, and ran 45-yards, putting the TF Tigers in touchdown range. After two plays, Evans scored the first touchdown of the game, 6-0.

The Untouchables continued to fight the TF Tigers during their possession; however their struggle was in vain. Trevor Booth, Untouchables quarterback, unsuccessfully attempted to gain yardage for a first down, leaving them at second down and 20 yards. Their next attempt at the first down, Booth managed a short gain for his team, followed by an incomplete pass, forcing the Untouchables to punt to the TF Tigers.

With the ball in the TF Tigers'



Sylvester Herrera, TF Tigers quarterback, prepares to launch the football during a flag football game at the Staff Sgt. Cassell Field Oct. 8. The TF Tigers' record is now 2-1 after defeating the Untouchables, who are no longer in the tournament.

hands, the team was expected to score. However, on the first down, Sylvester Herrera, TF Tigers quarterback, threw an interception to John Helring, Untouchables.

What may have looked like a silver lining for the Untouchables was quickly blemished after Herrera managed

to give the ball back to TF Tigers. John King, TF Tigers linebacker, snatched the ball out of the air and recovered the possession of the ball.

Not able to score, the TF Tigers were forced to give the ball back to the Untouchables, but not for long. Jorge Delgado intercepted the ball, ran 20 yards and placed his team within scoring distance.

Herrera found Jason Lessard, TF Tigers safety, in the back of the end zone right before halftime which brought the score to 12-0.

As the second half began, the Untouchables returned to the field ready to stop whatever was coming to them. They managed to only allow two first downs and Tremayne Parker, Untouchables defensive end, sacked Herrera, forcing the TF Tigers to punt.

Although the Untouchables stepped up their game, it was not enough to stop the TF Tigers from dominating. Herrera tossed the ball into the end zone where Lopez was waiting to score the final touchdown of the game.



Jorge Delgado, TF Tigers, reaches for an Untouchables' player flag during the double elimination game. Both teams were 1-1, before the game Oct. 8.