

# AnacondaTimes

OCTOBER 3, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jonathan Steffen

## Combat Honor Guard

Airmen volunteer to serve as Honor Guard

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Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

## Surgeons hit the road

Doctors suit up in efforts to better understand dangers patients face

Page 8



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

## Remembering Hispanics

Servicemember serves in honor of fallen cousin; vigil held for all Hispanic heroes

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Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Soldiers from the 82nd SB motor pool install a gun turret on a humvee. The gun turret has seen many enhancements in this past year including installing an ammunitions rack on its back.

## Enhancements increase survivability in vehicle attacks

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ADDER, Iraq**— With improvised explosive devices (IEDs) being the main threat Coalition Forces face on the streets of Iraq, there is a constant pursuit to make vehicles safer for service personnel.

For a few Soldiers in the 82nd Sustainment Brigade (SB) here, it is their job to design enhancements for many of the different vehicles on the road.

“We think ‘outside the box’ when it comes to enhancing the vehicles,” said Chief Warrant Officer William Studivant, 82nd SB maintenance officer. “Our goal is to save lives that would otherwise be lost.”

The 82nd SB is the only

motor pool in theater actively producing enhancements for vehicles, said Studivant. Some of the modifications made have more armor on the doors, added more lights to the front of the vehicles and put ammunition racks in the gun turrets.

Most of the ideas come from the combat logistic patrol (CLP) commander’s conferences, which happens once a month. The commanders discuss what would make the vehicles better equipped for attacks. Some of the ideas, however, come from the Soldiers themselves.

“Some of the ideas come from Soldiers stopping by and saying ‘hey, I have an idea about this,’ and if it makes sense we will try it out,” said

“We think ‘outside the box’ when it comes to enhancing the vehicles. Our goal is to save lives that would otherwise be lost.”

Chief Warrant Officer William Studivant  
82nd SB

Studivant.

Enhancement ideas go through a rigorous battery of tests and revisions before being placed on vehicles. The first step is to make a prototype, which usually goes through many changes. Once the pro-

totype meets Studivant’s approval it is mounted on a test vehicle.

“I test all enhancements myself before they go outside the wire,” said Studivant. “After I approve it, we select a unit to test it out for a week. Finally we have an after action review with the unit and decide if it was successful.”

Most of the material used for enhancements come from the salvageable parts of disabled vehicles. The motor pool tries to use anything available to make improvements.

All enhancements have to be temporary and be removable due to Army Regulations. They also have to be approved

See **SURVIVE**, Page 4

# 'At ease' with the 316th CSM



Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

Tactical vehicle operations continue to provide high-risk hazards to our Soldiers. Training and licensing remain critical in establishing standards and control measures. Commanders and leaders must provide guidance and quality control to minimize vehicular mishaps. First line leaders must conduct remedial training and counseling for

frequent violators of standards and operators who lack competence. At risk servicemembers should be required to attend remedial instruction in accident avoidance to prevent a possible reoccurrence by him or her.

Moreover, all units should review and analyze their unit's accident and injury trends. Assessing it has proven to be an effective tool for tracking accidents, analyzing the root causes and raising awareness of safety lessons learned. The goal of your analysis should be to help provide insight into safety issues that lead to accidents and injuries.

Furthermore, information derived from the analysis will inevitably help provide a foundation for developing accident prevention policies for use during training and real-world events. These training and real

world events include any accident trends, repetitious lack of standards, seasonal safety, tactical convoy operations and the control measures to reduce their recurrences.

All fatalities (be it combat or non-battle related), permanent disability, partial permanent disability as well as class A and B accident equipment damage should be immediately reported and investigated by the unit command leadership. Furthermore, the after action review, lessons learned and corrective actions taken should be sent to this headquarters for review and suggested guidance. In addition it is the responsibility of the command leadership team to ensure that your personnel are briefed on safety alerts and memorandums from this headquarters, as well as those from higher headquarters. All

safety alerts and memorandums should be posted on each unit's bulletin board.

Safety is both a command and individual responsibility. Commanders must lead their unit Safety Program for it to be effective. Remember, engaged leaders make a difference. They know their service members. They know what right looks like. They lead by example, acting as solid role models for proper behavior and attitudes. Engaged leaders coach, teach, and mentor those under their watch into doing what is right. If you are not an engaged leader, I encourage you to become one. Becoming one will not only save time, resources, and money, but being an engaged leader could also help save a life. Until then, think safety first, and continue to sustain the victory.

Command  
sergeant  
major



NCOs  
lead the  
way!

## Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

### Week of Sept. 15-21

**The PMO conducted:** (157) security checks, (40) traffic stops, issued (28) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (414) vehicles on the installation, (29) Common Access Cards were turned in to PMO and (1) lost weapon was reported.

**The PMO is currently investigating:** (4) cases of larceny Government/Personal Property and (1) General Order 1 violation.

**PMO Recommendations:** Bicyclists shall comply with the following requirements while riding on military installations:

**A.** It is prohibited to wear headphones, earphones or other listening devices while bicycling on roads or streets.

**B.** ANSI or SNELL Memorial Foundation approved bicycle helmets will be worn by all military members and civilian personnel. The military issued Kevlar helmet may be substituted as an authorized bicycle safety helmet. An engineer hardhat does not meet this requirement.

**C.** Riders should avoid Pennsylvania Avenue when other routes can be used. Riders (and joggers) are not authorized on Victory Loop.

**D.** Bicyclists will comply with all traffic signs and customary rules of the road. They must stop at stop signs, yield the right of way, and use proper hand signaling when turning or stopping.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. William Keltner

**Brig. Gen. Burton Field, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, recognizes Staff Sgt. Gary W. Cheney, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, as the Tuskegee Airman of the Week for Sept. 10-16. Cheney, a military working dog handler, was selected out of more than 8,000 Airmen in the Wing for his on- and off-duty accomplishments.**

## ANACONDA TIMES

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

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### Contributing Public Affairs Offices

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
12th Combat Aviation Brigade  
402nd Army Field Support Brigade  
20th Engineer Brigade  
213th Area Support Group  
1/82nd Brigade Combat Team  
3rd Sustainment Brigade  
82nd Sustainment Brigade  
507th Corps Support Group  
15th Sustainment Brigade  
CJSOTF-AP

# Paratroopers offer non-traditional approach to education

by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Patterson

20th Engineer Brigade (HHC) PA

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—Soldiers of the 20th Engineer Brigade are taking a non-traditional approach to advancing the education of their Soldiers. It's called the "Castle College of Useful Knowledge". The idea is that all Soldiers, Officer and Enlisted, have their own area of expertise. Whether they are math whizzes, linguists, historians, or artists each Soldier has something to share. Col. Peter DeLuca, the 20th Engineer Brigade commander, initiated the program to offer Soldiers the opportunity to grow professionally throughout the unit's fifteen month deployment here.

Have you ever taken a class and said "this is useless? I'm never going to need to know this." This is not a fact educators want to hear but it, nevertheless, leaves people with a dilemma of where can one learn the things they were never taught in school.

The College of Useful Knowledge was born out of an idea from DeLuca that every Soldier, non-commissioned officer and offi-

"...our personal skills may suffer if we don't practice them."

Lt. Col. Joseph Tyron  
20th ENG BN

cer serving should return after fifteen months here smarter and better than when they left. There are Soldiers who utilize the Army's Tuition Assistance (TA) program to take on-line classes, but the materials required to do so are not always available. The Castle College utilizes assets internal to the brigade; its own Soldiers.

Lt. Col. Joseph Tyron, the deputy brigade commander kicked off the program by offering a course in financial management.

"Everybody can bet that as Soldiers, most of us will leave Iraq knowing more

about the Army and our MOS but our own personal skills may suffer if we don't practice them. The truth is that over fifteen months we all need some outside interests to keep our minds sharp," he said.

The classes are voluntary but also offer incentives for

Soldiers. Enlisted personnel who complete the classes receive a certificate of achievement from the brigade commander that earns them promotion points.

Arabic 101 is next on the course list once financial management is complete. Other classes offered in-

clude: Math, How to File Taxes, Nutrition, the Judicial System, WWII History, African American History, and Spanish.

As evident by the instruction offered, education is useful knowledge to aid in personal and professional development.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Patterson

Col. Peter "Duke" DeLuca (Left) with Spc. Andrea Brewer, chaplain's assistant, and Lt. Col. McBerth Williams, brigade chaplain, celebrate the official opening of the Castle College of Useful Knowledge.

## Worship services

### PROTESTANT - TRADITIONAL

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

### PROTESTANT-GOSPEL

Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building  
Noon Freedom Chapel (West Side)  
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel  
3:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)  
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

### PROTESTANT-CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building  
10 a.m. Town Hall(H-6)  
2 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)  
6:30 p.m. Eden Chapel  
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)  
Wednesday 8 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel(H-6)

### PROTESTANT -LITURGICAL

Sunday 9 a.m. Episcopal (Freedom Chapel)  
11 a.m. Lutheran (Provider Annex)  
11 a.m. Episcopal (Tuskegee H-6)

### PROTESTANT- MESSIANIC

Friday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### PROTESTANT-PRAYER SERVICE

Saturday 7 a.m. Signal Chapel

### PROTESTANT-SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 9 a.m. Provider Annex

### PROTESTANT-CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 2 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 (West side)  
9:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

11 a.m. Provider Chapel

Mon-Sat 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

### LATTER DAY SAINTS- (LDS)-(MORMON)

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel  
3:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel  
7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

### JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 7 p.m. Signal Chapel

### ISLAMIC SERVICES

Friday 12 p.m. Provider Chapel

### PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel

### BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

**This Humvee has additional lights mounted for better vision at night. This enhancement makes it easier to detect IEDs and makes the vehicle more noticeable to local traffic.**

### **SURVIVE, from Cover**

by the tank-automotive and Armaments command.

Because of enhancements developed here, servicemembers are better equipped for the dangers they may face on the road.

"I feel a lot more confident on the roads

with the new enhancements," said Sgt. 1st Class Chris Paterson, CLP academy non-commissioned officer in charge. "I know they are saving lives."

"There is no doubt that we are making a difference out there," said Studivant. "We give the Soldiers everything they need to get the job done and get back safely."

## 1st BCT exceeds retention goal in tough Army era

by Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls, Jr.  
1st BCT, 82nd ABN DIV

**LSA ADDER, Iraq** — 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division has exceeded its retention goal for the year, with the majority of the re-ups coming since the unit has been deployed.

The brigade arrived in Iraq June 13. It reached its annual retention objective in just 75 days after arriving.

A total of 288 initial-term Paratroopers have reenlisted to achieve 100 percent of the brigade's annual retention goal for that group. Totals of 111 and 63 Paratroopers for percentages of 110 and 197 percent, respectively, were achieved with mid-term and career Paratroopers.

In all, 462 Paratroopers have reenlisted in 1st BCT so far, which is 110 percent of the unit's overall objective for the year. More than half of those reenlisted in the months of June and July.

Such a reenlistment rate during a combat deployment in a long-term war says some-

thing about the commitment of the Paratroopers, 1st BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Eric C. James said.

"They believe in the fight, they believe in their country (and) they believe in the Army enough to do this," he said.

Although more than \$4.5 million has been paid in reenlistment bonuses to Paratroopers this year, their decision to reenlist goes well beyond monetary reasons, James said, pointing out the continuing sacrifice Paratroopers and their families must make in this age of continual deployments.

"You don't reenlist the Soldier, you reenlist the family," James added, noting Paratroopers' families deserve much credit for their patriotism and commitment as well.

The commitment of Paratroopers and their families bodes well for the future, James noted, because those who are reenlisting in these difficult times will be the leaders of the brigade and the Army in the years ahead.

## Building relationships with local leaders, coalition forces

by Spc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT, 82nd ABN DIV

**LSA Adder, Iraq**— Col. Charles A. Flynn, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division along with other Coalition Forces met with local sheik leaders for the first time since the Devil Brigade arrived in Iraq. Flynn and local sheiks met in the dining facility at LSA Adder for lunch and a short meeting.

"I think that having the sheiks come in together and having all the Coalition leadership there is a sign of unity between the community and the Coalition Forces here in Southern Iraq," said Flynn.

The sheiks had the opportunity to enjoy a good lunch with Flynn and some of the Coalition Force commanders in LSA Adder, to include the Air Force commander, Col. Peter G. Sands, Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team Dr. Anna Krause, Overwatch Battlegroup West-3 Lt. Col. Jake Elwood and the Romanian commander, Lt. Col. Cristian Dinulica. They discussed a number of important topics regarding the safety of troops

"I think they are concerned about the security in the area and making sure that it stays safe and stable."

Col. Charles A. Flynn  
1/82 ABN DIV

patrolling and driving on the streets of Iraq along with ongoing activities in and around the area.

"I think they are concerned about the security in the area and making sure that it stays safe and stable. They are also concerned about our actions in the area, in other words, driving around in our up-armored vehicles and operations in the area that their tribes live in and work in," said Flynn.

The sheiks spoke with and shared a few laughs with Flynn and the rest of the attendees before and after they had lunch.

"They're concerned about maintaining good relations with us. I thought it was a great meeting today and we decided to do another one in about a month or two," said Flynn.

## The model pastime activity



Photo by Spc. James M. Gilbert

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**— Spc. Kenneth D. Ault, a meteorologist with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1-9 Field Artillery, begins construction of a model village featuring trains which have been donated by enthusiasts back home. The Wichita, Kan. native says he likes building the trains and surrounding villages because he can model them from his memories of home. Anyone interested in model train building can contact Ault at [kenneth\\_ault@yahoo.com](mailto:kenneth_ault@yahoo.com).

## Providing security for 'Guardian Torch'



Photo by Spc. Robert H. Baumgartner

Arab Jabour, Iraq—A Soldier from 1-30 Infantry, 2nd BCT, 3rd ID pulls rooftop security for his fellow Soldiers during Operation Guardian Torch. Operation Guardian Torch was designed to clear the area of al-Qaida and other insurgent forces.

## Army officer travels throughout theater to educate on hearing loss

by Spc. Robert H. Baumgartner

82nd Sustainment Brigade

**CAMP ADDER, Iraq**—Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent injuries coming out of both Iraq and Afghanistan. Although not one of the most serious injuries, it is probably one of the easiest to prevent.

Capt. Andy Merkley, an audiologist with the 28th Combat Support Hospital and audiology consultant for the 3rd Medical Command, is touring the theater to certify health care specialists in the operation of hearing test equipment. The equipment will be used to identify Soldiers at risk of permanent hearing loss. The 82nd Sustainment Brigade is setting up the program here as part of a theater wide push to make hearing testing available to all Soldiers.

"This testing gives health care providers the ability to assess a Soldier's readiness to do their job," Merkley said.

"If a Soldier has significant hearing loss, he is a liability on the battlefield not only to himself but also to his fellow servicemembers. This equipment will allow commanders to have their Soldier's tested on base and quickly document whether or not a Soldier is capable of continuing to do their job," Merkley said.

Until recently the only hearing testing equipment in Iraq was in Baghdad. If a commander wanted to have his Soldier tested, that Soldier had to make the trip to this nation's capital. But the Army is recognizing the preponderance of Soldiers exposed to a noise hazardous environment and is seeking to identify and mitigate hearing loss.

"If a Soldier has significant hearing loss, he is a liability on the battlefield not only to himself but also to his fellow servicemembers."

Capt. Andy Merkley  
28th CSH

Most Soldiers are exposed to noises that they could easily avoid, such as working around generators, riding around in helicopters, or shooting at the firing range. Merkley expressed concern at seeing Soldiers not wear appropriate hearing protection when it was readily available.

"A lot of Soldiers just do not take hearing protection seriously...They'll just jump on a Blackhawk (helicopter) and not think twice about putting ear plugs in. On my flights throughout theater I am amazed at how many Soldiers don't even bother, even though the ear plugs are sitting right in their helmet," Merkley said.

But what constitutes an environment that is hazardous to your hearing? According to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, 85 decibels, the equivalent of downtown New York City during rush hour, is sufficient to cause hearing damage if exposure lasts eight hours or more.

"If you are having trouble talking with someone who is 2 – 3 feet from you, if you have to raise your voice at that distance to communicate, you are in a hazardous environment," Merkley said.



## History of the "Compass Rose"

(Note: In the Sept. 5 issue of the Anaconda Times, an article entitled, "316th ESC Authorized to Wear Combat Patch" which highlighted the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) combat patch ceremony was printed. In this article, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch was quoted as saying that wearing the 316th ESC unit patch was not mandatory. While not a requirement, all Soldiers in the command and in subordinate units are strongly encouraged to proudly wear the 316th ESC "Compass Rose" as their combat patch of choice. For specific information about wearing of combat patches, see AR 670-1, 3FEB05, paragraph 6 or DA Message 055/2007. )

The "Compass Rose" is the shoulder sleeve insignia for the 316th ESC it has a white disc within a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) red border, 2 inches (5.08 cm) in diameter overall, a representation of a compass rose, the four cardinal points and center blue and the secondary points red, bearing on the center a white fleur-de-lis.

**Symbolism:** The compass rose alludes to the ability of the Command to move, quarter, and provision forces at any point of the compass. The fleur-de-lis which traditionally is used at the north point of the compass, also represents the iris, the State flower of Tennessee, the birthplace of the unit.

**Background:** The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 316th Logistical Command on 26 October 1954. It was redesignated for the 316th Sustainment Command with the description and symbolism updated on 13 November 2006.



**Distinctive Unit Insignia. Description:** An oval-shaped silver metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in width consisting of a buff background surmounted by a silver inverted triangle, overall and throughout a blue wavy reversed pall (Y), between the radian of the reversed pall, a red compass rose; all enclosed below by a green laurel wreath and above by a red scroll parted in three places inscribed "SUSTAIN THE VICTORY" in silver.

**Symbolism:** Buff is the color traditionally used by Sustainment units. The triangle denotes solidity and support, also referring to the Pittsburgh Tri-state area. The blue wavy reversed pall signifies the flowing together of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers to form the Ohio River at Pittsburgh, the location of the unit. The compass rose alludes to the Command's ability to move, quarter and provide for forces worldwide, at any time. The laurel wreath symbolizes victory.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was approved for the 316th Sustainment Command on 11 January 2007.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Mims

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Searcy and Pfc. Timothy Davis from D Co., 3rd Bn, 158th Aviation Regiment work on components of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter here. Searcy and Davis are part of a young platoon of Soldiers forced to learn very quickly in a combat environment.

## Soldiers prove younger Army not bad thing

by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

12th Combat Aviation Brigade

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—According to Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Searcy, years ago, when his father pinned on E-7 with only 16 years in the Army, he was considered young to be joining the ranks of senior noncommissioned officers.

Last month, when Searcy himself joined those ranks with only 12 years of service, not many people considered it out of the ordinary. In today's Army, many Soldiers are moving through the ranks at an accelerated pace.

"The Army is getting younger," Searcy said.

He ought to know. He's the platoon sergeant for the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's D Co. 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment's maintenance platoon. Of the 23 Soldiers in his charge, only five have been in the military for at least three years.

Thirteen of them came to him straight out of training just six months before he was to have them ready to deploy to combat.

"I was very worried and skeptical coming out here," he said. "I knew what we were coming into, and what would be asked of us, and I wasn't sure we could handle it."

He wasn't the only one worried.

"I thought for sure they'd be the ones to drop the ball," said D Co. 1st Sgt. Ronald Pickens. "Instead they're the ones who've been picking it up. They handle all we give them and they want more. I've been super impressed with these guys."

The situation in D Co. is not that unusual. According to Pickens, recent graduates from four consecutive helicopter maintenance classes helped fill the ranks across the battalion. As the Global War on Terrorism continues well into its fourth year, younger Soldiers across the Army are being asked to learn and do more than ever before.

"These guys have done more in two months here than they would have done in six months back in Germany," said Searcy. "By the time they leave Iraq, they're going to be where I was when I had three years in the Army. Right now, the Army is producing very experienced, technically knowledgeable Soldiers in a very short time."

Searcy and his first sergeant admit, though,

that there are challenges... challenges far different from what they expected.

"Discipline-wise, I haven't had a problem," he said. "These guys don't have bad habits yet, so if they're getting out of line it'd be our fault as leaders. They only do what they see us do."

Their challenge is developing leaders. With so many Soldiers coming in at the same time, waivers for promotion are tight.

"All the Pfc's here were together from the start," said Pickens. "We have to be so selective on promotions because they all came up together."

"We look for guys that take initiative and want to learn," said Searcy. "They enroll in college, do great at (physical training), shoot expert (at the rifle range) and do all the stuff Soldiers are supposed to do."

Pfc. David Pliego from New Braunfels, Texas is one of those guys. He joined the Army because he wanted to be part of Army aviation. He's taking college classes, and is considering a career as a pilot.

"When I come to work every day, I'm with my friends," he said. "Everyday we have breakfast together. That allows us to hit the 'reset' button... after that we charge up, and we're ready to work."

"I think it's a blessing coming to Iraq with people I was in training with," said Pfc. Timothy Davis, another standout from Roanoke, Va. "I get to bounce what I learn off what other guys just like me are learning."

Though new to the Army, and on his first deployment, Davis plans to make it a career.

"I'm glad I deployed so soon," he said. "Having this experience will make me more credible as a leader when I do pin on some rank."

The D Co. maintenance platoon, like a growing number of platoons in today's Army, is full of youth and inexperience. But their leaders say that's not necessarily a bad thing.

"My maintenance platoon is my youngest from top to bottom," said Pickens. "And they present the least amount of problems."

"I hear people complain about this generation of kids all the time," he said. "I tell them 'you don't know these kids.' They joined the Army knowing exactly what they were getting into and they're doing great."

## White Devils provide much needed supplies

by Spc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT, 82nd ABN DIV

**AL ASAD, Iraq**— More than 700 miles of road, 200 trucks and more than 50 hours of driving is the mission Paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, "White Devils" 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division are tasked with for the next 13 months.

It's a long and tedious mission but a crucial one for the overall success of Coalition Forces in Iraq.

"We're bringing in a third of the fuel that this whole theater uses so it's very important to the mission in Iraq," said 1st Sgt. Brent W. Hickman, first sergeant for A Co., of the White Devils.

These Paratroopers escort the trucks that carry many of the everyday items Paratroopers, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors and Coalition Forces need to survive while in country.

"We are responsible for the safe transport of an assortment of goods to support coalition forces throughout Iraq," said Sgt. 1st Class Walter E. Kirk, platoon sergeant for 1st platoon of A Co.

In addition to escorting the much needed supplies to troops all over Iraq, this mission brings the fuel that many troops use to conduct military and humanitarian missions across the theater.

"Without the fuel, the forces throughout Al Asad and Anbar Province would be stuck. It's pretty much the lifeline of the Army," said Kirk.

Their route takes these troops all the way to the border of Jordan and then back again to Al Asad, approximately 346 miles.

"We take TCN (Third Country National) trucks and we escort them from FOB to FOB, starting here in Al Asad to CKV. From there we go to Jordan, then we go to TQ. Basically what we do is pick up and drop off supplies," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Collins, squad leader in A Co.

These missions require more than just the driving of the vehicles that escort

the trucks to and from posts across Iraq. The missions require countless hours in the motor pool conducting maintenance to keep the armored security vehicles and humvees fully operational in order to travel the countless miles on all but well-built roads.

"Everyday we end up doing vehicle maintenance. There (are) a variety of different tasks between making sure that the weapon systems are zeroed and operational before every mission and throughout the entire operation. It's a long and tedious process," said Kirk.

These Soldiers are required to maintain both their vehicles and weapons to ensure they will function properly throughout the mission.

"It's very important for Soldiers to maintain their equipment. We need every truck and weapon that we take out there. Unfortunately, we do have break downs, after every mission we have to do maintenance on weapons and vehicles," said Hickman.

While on the road, Paratroopers have to be prepared for anything from improvised explosive devices to vehicle breakdowns in the middle of the road.

"We've been lucky with not seeing much contact moving up and down the road, for as much traveling (as) we do, but there is always the threat of IEDs and small arms contact out there," said Kirk.

It takes about four days to completely accomplish the mission and a lot of those days require the Paratroopers to wake up at 2 a.m. and get to bed at about 9 p.m. that night.

"Being out on the road for three to four days at a time takes a lot out of the guys. It's mentally draining, but the guys stay well-focused and they handle any situation that comes their way with no problems," said Kirk.

"They execute very well; they are motivated, they stay mission focused and they work hard all the time trying to get the task at hand done. So they can get

# Combat Honor Guard serves with dignity

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

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq**— Staying sharp and crisp, standing motionlessly for hours in formations and rendering military honors and ceremonies without a glitch are just a few of the qualities a team here brings to the fight: the Honor Guard.

The reason is evident in their creed and everyday rally cry -- To Honor with Dignity. From the beginning of each Air Expeditionary Force rotation to the end of their tour here and during every training session, members of the Honor Guard learn to understand the meaning of the words "to honor with dignity."

The members, referred to as ceremonial guardsmen, are trained to perfect every movement and drill as a team. They represent the pinnacle of attention to detail when it comes to executing ceremonial movements, 21-gun salutes, the Presentation of the Colors and honoring fallen heroes.

"The Honor Guard is one of the most respected organizations on any installation," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Hiney, noncommissioned officer in charge, Balad Honor Guard team. "I knew that while deployed I wanted to be part of it."

Despite being assigned to a combat zone, the team comes together at least twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to train in every aspect of ceremonies, color guards, customs and courtesies and more to be elite professionals worthy of representing the Honor Guard during details.

"During combat operations, working long hours and awkward shifts are the norm," Hiney, who is also an NCOIC on a six-month in-lieu-of assignment with Army Redistribution Property Assistance Team here. "It has really been a unique and rewarding experience to accomplish both our primary duties and the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Honor Guard mission."

Hiney's duty as NCOIC is to organize, train and nurture volunteers here, irrespective of their experience, to perform honor guard duties with strength, dedication and a high level of professionalism.

He said that without teamwork, this task of training about 60 team members at a time would not be possible.

"I am honored to work as a



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alan Port

**The joint Honor Guard team here fires 21-gun salutes to honor fallen heroes during the 2007 Memorial Day ceremony. Honor Guard members, referred to as ceremonial guardsmen, are present in most Air Force events and ceremonies for the Presentation of the Colors and to render proper honors to fallen heroes.**

"It's truly an awesome feeling during a ceremony, knowing that I am representing the Air Force to the utmost of my abilities... I am very proud to be able to render honors to our fallen Airmen, both past and present, while defending our nation."

Senior Airman Gabriel Rosa  
Balad Honor Guard

trainer as part of an elite group of professionals, leaders and peers," said Senior Airman Gabriel Rosa, Honor Guard webmaster and a trainer assigned to training newcomers. "It's truly an awesome feeling during a ceremony, knowing that I am representing the Air Force to the utmost of my abilities. One of my greatest achievements is watching the individuals I train transform from knowing little, to becoming 'honorable guardsmen.' I am very proud to be able to render honors to our fallen Airmen, both past and present, while defending our nation; I am extremely proud to be on the Balad Honor Guard team."

According to the team NCOIC, members who show a high level of dedication are selected as leaders and trainers, irrespective of their service affiliation.

"I joined the Honor Guard because I thought it would be a good way to employ the time when not working in my assigned customs mission,"

said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Wendy Alvarado, with the Navy Customs Battalion, Delta Company Administration Department. "This experience has by far surpassed my expectations. It has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my deployment."

The base leadership knows to call on the Honor Guard when it is time for ceremonies. The honor guard takes part in many base functions, such as changes-of-command and award ceremonies, among others.

"As military members, one of our duties is to defend our country and our freedom," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Hanson, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron fire protection craftsman. "However, it takes more as an Honor Guard member because it represents more than just defending our right as Americans. Being a guardsman means you are giving back to those who lost their lives doing what we all have taken an oath to do. We all, regardless of branch

top-notch members to be on the team because each member is expected to maintain high level of discipline and professionalism, both in practice and during details.

"Being a ceremonial guardsman means not only holding yourself to a higher standard of professionalism, but to also remain crisp, flawless and motionless during ceremonies and memorials," Hanson added. "The cookie (patch) we wear on our uniform says it best. To Honor with Dignity. There is no other way to honor the fallen but with dignity."

During AEF 7 and 8 alone, the joint honor guard team performed in more than 36 ceremonies including five fallen Airman memorials, Memorial Day, the 332nd AEW change-of-command, dining-in and the 9-11 remembrance.

"The Balad Air Base Honor Guard sustains the Tuskegee Airman tradition of excellence," said Chief Master Sgt. Paul Wheeler, 332nd AEW command chief and Honor Guard chief advisor. "The pride, professionalism and teamwork during a myriad of AEF 7 and 8 ceremonies were evident -- every Honor Guard volunteer should be very proud of their accomplishments."

of service, have devoted our lives to defend what makes us who we are today. We lay our lives on the line every day, and those who do not make it through the day we honor. They gave the ultimate sacrifice so that others may live."

He emphasized that it takes



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alan Port

**Airmen 1st Class Edrick Agostini, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, and member of the Balad Honor Guard, plays the bugle during a ceremony honoring a fallen Airman here.**

# Doctors peek into rou



# ate clearance mission

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**— The medical team at the Air Force Theater Hospital here brings life-saving care and hope to war wounded individuals. They not only treat but try to prevent injuries.

In an effort to better understand the protective equipment and vehicles servicemembers use when they travel the deadliest roads in Iraq, doctors recently donned body armor and weapons and climbed aboard enormous explosives-mitigating vehicles.

For operational reasons, the surgeons remained at LSA Anaconda, although they rode in the vehicles and learned about the vehicles' capabilities, limitations and improvements from personnel in the 875th Engineer Battalion and 833rd Engineer Battalion, two units responsible for making roads safer.

"We take care of the wounded Soldiers all the time, but we don't see the vehicles they use," said Air Force Capt. Matthew J. Sena, a trauma surgeon with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group (EMDG). "We had no idea what kind of munitions these vehicles can stop. We wanted to see for ourselves how servicemembers are being protected instead of just seeing the aftermath of injury," he said.

There are more than 700 civilian and military patients per month treated in the hospital emergency room, the same number of patients also require some type of surgical procedure

as a result of battle related trauma.

Among the vehicles doctors explored were the Husky, a vehicle developed in South Africa in response to land mines and the Buffalo which has shown much resistance against IEDs.

"I'm pretty sheltered at the hospital," said Air Force Maj. Jane Chan, a radiologist with the 332nd EMDG. "I've seen all kinds of injuries from head to toe, but it's amazing to actually be in these vehicles, wear all this gear and to think about these guys who are out there, wearing this stuff, uncomfortable and hot, for 16 hours a day," said Chan.

"Whether it's 3 a.m. or 3 p.m. there is always a portion of our company out there patrolling the routes, ensuring they are clear," said Pfc. Shawn Forbes, a combat engineer in the 833rd.

Forbes said he relies on the vehicles he travels in while clearing roads because an IED detonated near the mine-resistant vehicle he was traveling in and everyone survived unscathed and the vehicle was not damaged.

In the 12 months the 875th cleared routes, Soldiers found and cleared 296 IEDs.

"Part of my role as a trauma surgeon is to get involved in injury prevention," said Sena. "I think there have been significant improvements in the evolution of vehicles and armor to protect Soldiers; that's promising. As long as there are servicemembers who need us, we are committed to them, their health and their quality of life."



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

(Above) Maj. Vik Bebarta, chief surgeon, emergency department and Maj. Jane Chan, a radiologist, both with the Air Force Theater Hospital, explore the interior of an IED-resistant vehicle here Sept. 19.

(Background) Maj. Jane Chan, Col. Bill Beninati, commander, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron, probe the windows on an up-armored M1114 humvee. In addition to steel plating and ballistic-resistant windows around the cab of the vehicle offering improved protection against small arms fire and shrapnel, steel plating underneath helps to withstand less massive explosives.

# Soldier serves in honor of fallen hero, beloved cousin

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—At the end of a grueling 14-hour day, most folks would probably rather hit the sack than hit the books, not 21-year-old Sgt. Katelyn Ventura. The intelligence analyst with the 22nd Personnel Services Battalion, not only hits the books, she also plans morale, welfare and recreation events and helps hundreds of Soldiers and Marines gain U.S. citizenship.

It's in honor of her fallen hero and beloved cousin, 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Steven Chavez, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, that Ventura serves with zeal.

"Blood runs thick in my family and Steven, along with my dad and grandpa will always be my greatest heroes," said Ventura.

Ventura's father served as a crew chief and Russian interrogator in the military and her grandfather served as a combat medic. Her cousin was a gunner.

"Steven is a lot of my motivation to be a great Soldier," she said.

Ventura said her cousin's dedication to his fellow Marines inspires her to support and mentor everyone around her.

"Steven had a really big heart and he was always willing to help everybody out," Ventura said. "Steven was willing to come out here again and again if his buddies needed him. He gave his life serving our country, and I think about his sacrifice everyday."

On leadership, Ventura said she is willing to do anything to help her Soldiers, peers and superiors become the best leaders possible.

"As a Soldier Sgt. Ventura is top notch," said Sgt. 1st Class Tarree Dean, operations sergeant, 22nd Personnel Services Battalion. As a leader she has taken charge over other sergeants concerning duties and responsibilities. She has always helped me in the absence of my boss. She is a go-getter," he said.

"You might not always remember the really good leaders, but you always remember the really bad ones: the leader that left you out in the cold. I don't want to be that kind of leader. I want people to be confident they can rely on me," said Ventura.

As the youngest daughter of parents with a history of



Photo by Capt. Adam Hill

**Hundreds of servicemembers in Iraq earned U.S. citizenship thanks in part to 21-year-old Sgt. Katelyn Ventura, an intelligence analyst with the 22nd Personnel Services Battalion. Ventura volunteered for months, often staying up until 2 or 3 a.m. checking paperwork, emailing candidates, scheduling appointments, travel and lodging for naturalization and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials. Here, Ventura is assisting a Marine with naturalization paperwork.**

military service, Ventura was reared with a strong sense of her family's cultural identity and service to the nation.

"My father always taught me to be proud of who I (am) and where I (come) from," she said. Ventura is a native of East Los Angeles, Calif.

As a result, Ventura embraces her Mexican and American cultures. She also speaks Spanish and German.

Her immigrant heritage compelled her to help hundreds of foreign-born servicemembers get U.S. citizenship, she said.

Ventura worked tirelessly for months, often staying up until 2 or 3 a.m. checking paperwork, emailing candidates, scheduling appointments, travel and lodging for naturalization and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials.

"It was so much work, and at times I thought, 'oh my God, what did I get myself into,'" she said. "The way I see it, they have already committed their lives to our country, so they deserve to be citizens."

Capt. Adam Hill, attorney with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) said Ventura was instrumental in the naturalization process.

"She had a firm grip on what needed to be done," said Hill. "She was always available by phone or email to answer questions."

Hill had not personally worked on naturalization proj-

ects before.

"Bar none she is the best volunteer we have had and she took the initiative to help us," he said.

Taking the initiative is common for Ventura. Upon finding out that no one was sponsoring

the Sept. 11 Patriots' Day five-kilometer run, Ventura immediately volunteered to organize it and even spent more than \$200 of her own money to purchase American flags for run participants. She also helped coordinate Women's History

"You might not always remember the really good leaders, but you always remember the really bad ones: the leader that left you out in the cold. I don't want to be that kind of leader."

Sgt. Katelyn Ventura  
22nd PSB

Month activities, has participated in every five-kilometer run and contributed to numerous activities aimed at improving the quality of life for residents here.

In her free time, Ventura is pursuing a bachelor's degree through Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and tries to stay connected to family and friends back home.

"For me, serving with excellence is about honoring your buddies, honoring your fallen comrades," Ventura said. "You might be the last person someone sees before they go out on their very last mission, so you owe it to them to give the best customer service you can, the best possible help you can."

## Honoring fallen Hispanic servicemembers



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—Capt. Luis Cotto, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) supply and services officer in charge, was the guest speaker at a Sept. 22 night-time vigil and procession to honor servicemembers of Hispanic ethnic origin who have died. Cotto, a native of Puerto Rico, urged servicemembers of Hispanic heritage to embrace their cultural heritage and serve with pride.

# Iraqi Army moves closer to being self sufficient

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq**— One of the main goals since the beginning of the war in Iraq has been to provide the means for the Iraq Army (IA) to be self-sufficient. While this is a long process, there has been significant progress.

The Iraqi Army Services and Support Institute (IASSI) here is the largest Iraqi Army training center in theater where Iraqi soldiers learn essential skills and develop into leaders.

"We are here to coach, mentor and train the Iraqi soldiers," said Maj. Robert Thompson, IASSI executive officer and a McKinney, Texas native.

The institute is specifically designed for officers and noncommissioned officers to learn a job skill and also learn how to lead younger, inexperienced soldiers.

Soldiers go through basic combat training at one of the

eight regional training centers throughout Iraq prior to coming to IASSI.

When the school opened Coalition Forces taught classes and mentored Iraqi trainers until they were competent to run the classes with little or no support. Today most of the classes are taught by Iraqis.

"The Iraqis practically run this place," said Thompson. "We are more administrators at this point."

The institute can support over 500 soldiers. There are classes for many logistical necessities, including vehicle maintenance, culinary operations, communications and administration. However, new ideas for classes are considered on almost a daily basis.

Any class there is a need for is presented to the Ministry of Defense for approval. After it is approved, the institute must wait for a subject matter expert



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

**Iraqi soldiers discuss answers to a vehicle maintenance test at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute here. The institute is for officer and noncommissioned officer level soldiers to learn their job skill and how to be a leader.**

to train the Iraqi instructors and for funds to run the class to be approved.

"The Iraqi soldiers came to us asking for an armor course, but we turned them away. However,

the soldiers were determined and they built an armor company out of parts from the scrap yard. They got the course," said Thompson.

The Iraqi soldiers are also in-

novative when it comes to training aids. They will use anything they find, including many things other people throw away. They practice recovering burned out vehicles from the scrap yard and get generators Coalition Forces deem unusable and try to fix them.

Even though there has been a lot of progress since the school opened in 2005, there are some cultural differences still being worked out.

"A lot of the younger soldiers don't trust the Coalition yet," said 1st Sgt. Andrew T. Stercks, IASSI first sergeant. "They grew up learning to hate us; we need to break them of that."

Through the IASSI the Iraqi Army is moving towards self-sufficiency and being able to defend their nation.

"The institute is making a difference," said Stercks. "We get more and more soldiers coming here eager to learn."

## America's warrior

by Sgt. Dave Lankford

### A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



Photo by Sgt. Dave Lankford

**Name:** Airman 1st Class Mario Jaramillo

**Unit:** 316th ESC Joint Visitors bureau (JVB)

**Military Occupation Specialty:** Civil Services originally, but right now am a driver for the JVB

**Time in service:** 1 year and 8 months

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** Barstow, Calif.

**Family:** wife: Angeleena; son: Mario Jr; and another son on the way.

**Favorite Pastimes:** Playing baseball in high school when there were no worries in the world, and the day my son was born.

**How would you describe yourself:**

I'm a type of person that doesn't like to hear "you can't" or "you don't have what it takes." I also don't

like to show off; I like to keep my bragging to a minimum.

**One life-changing event:**

There was never one event, it's more like one person, that's my wife. Before I met her I thought I was a "gangsta" and tried to run the streets and get into trouble. When we met it took awhile, but she started to get to me and she made me realize how stupid I use to be. Then as time went by I saw all my old friends. If they didn't join the military they were either dead, locked up or looking like zombies roaming the streets. So if it wasn't for my wife I don't think I would have grown up in time to get my life together and join the military. A little late, but I'm here.

**The person I admire the most:**

My dad. I don't think my dad even knows that I admire him. Everything I do I think how my dad would do it first before I move on. Everything from how mentally strong he is to his crazy work habits impresses me.

**What historical or celebrity figure would you want to meet:**

I never had an interest in meeting anybody except Jessica Alba. But my wife will probably slap me for saying that.

**Why did you join the Service:**

I actually joined to be a fire fighter but that didn't exactly work to my advantage, so I'm in services (food, fitness, lodging, and mortuary affairs) now, but I will put in my package to cross train because fire fighting is still on my agenda.

**If I wasn't in the Service I would?** Probably still be working in the Civil Service (heavy mobile equipment mechanic) at Nebo Marine Base, Barstow, Calif.

**The one thing you would change about the Service:**

I would probably bring back the buck sergeant in the Air Force, because like a corporal in the Army, you put them in a position of some kind of leadership first before putting them as an actual sergeant.

**What makes a good leader:**

Someone that knows how to follow, and listens to others.

**What makes a good Soldier/Airmen:**

A good Soldier/Airmen is someone that takes pride in what they do no matter what it is they do, from fighter pilot to cook we all have a piece of the puzzle for our mission.

**Best thing about being a Soldier/Airmen:**

Besides traveling the world, you're not going to get rich in the military but you can count on a pay check on 1st and 15th so you can put food on the table. Also knowing that you served your country and no one can take that away from you.

**Motivations:**

My motivation to do my best is my family, the better you do and know your job, the better your chances are of getting promoted, and as you get more rank also comes better paychecks.

**Goals:**

Short term goals: get below the zone, (it's were I get E-4 six months faster). Another goal: to cross train in fire fighting and make E-5 at my four-year mark. Long term goals: retire from the military and own my own gym.

# Football on the FOB: Weekly NFL picks by Sgt. Rob Pinches

**Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007**

*Miami @ Houston:*

I hate it but I think the Texans at home are going to be able to pull out the victory against the Dolphins. Dolphins 13, Texans 20.

*Detroit @ Washington:*

Mike Martz constructs offenses that put up points. Unfortunately for the Lions, it won't be enough against Gibbs' Redskins. Lions 24, Redskins 27.

*Atlanta @ Tennessee:*

I like the Titan's offense against the Falcon's defense. I also like the Titan's defense against the Falcon's offense. Falcons 6, Titans 21

*Arizona @ St. Louis:*

The Rams get it together and pull out a close one at home against the Cards. Cardinals 28, Rams 31

*Seattle @ Pittsburgh:*

The Seahawks will be trouble for the Steelers in what

will be a close game. I like the home team in close games. Seahawks 17, Steelers 24.

*NY Jets @ NY Giants:*

The battle for NY leaves something to be desired. Are the Giants finally healthy enough? Will the Jets' quarterback make it through the game? Jets 16, Giants 27.

*Carolina @ New Orleans:*

The Saints offense gets on track and lights up the Panthers at home in the Superdome. Carolina 14, Saints 28

*Cleveland @ New England:*

Unfortunately for the Browns they have to face the Patriots this week. I don't know if anyone looks forward to that task. Browns 9, Patriots 34

*Jacksonville @ Kansas City:*

This game will be determined by which ever team's quarterback plays better; though I'm not sure either will play well. Jaguars 14, Chiefs 10

*Tampa Bay @ Indianapolis:*

The Bucs put up a good fight, but in the end, the Colts get the win. Buccaneers 20, Colts 28.

*Baltimore @ San Francisco:*

The 49ers are a good team in the NFC. The Ravens are a good team in the AFC. AFC continues to be the better conference. Ravens 19, 49ers 14.

*San Diego @ Denver:*

Broncos at Mile-High are always tough and there are few rivalries that have been as good as this one over the last few years. I don't feel great about it, but I'm feeling the Broncos at home. Chargers 20, Broncos 21

*Chicago @ Green Bay:*

Packers take the late game at home against a Bears team that puts up a valiant effort. Bears 13, Packers 20

**Monday, Oct. 8, 2007**

*Dallas @ Buffalo:*

The 'Boys have their way

with a struggling Bills team. Cowboys 35, Bills 16

## Rob responds to your emails

Spc. Andrew Scardina wrote:

I have a small problem with your NE/NYJ pick and analysis. Before I tell you how wrong you are, a couple of mini issues. First off you are a Dolphins fan so you are going to pick against the Jets anyway. And second you picked all easy games with the favorite to win as your picks. Come on man, if you have the means to show your NFL knowledge at least put some risk into it. So with that said the pick on the NE/NYJ game is way too easy. You should know the Jets were only expected to win 3 or 4 games last year; they won 10 in one of the strongest divisions in the NFL and in the

more dominant AFC. Then they add a stud in Jones at running back and pick up Revis at corner, they are the best choice at an upset. Not to mention, they did beat the Pats in Foxboro last year. Well, good luck with your picks! You'll hear from me all season. J-E-T-S, JETSJETSJETS!

Rob's response:

Spc. Scardina,

The J-E-T-S aren't exactly living up to their pre-season hype, unlike the Dolphins, who are living up to their last-place predictions. When I choose the Pats over the Jets in Week 1, I, like yourself, actually thought the Jets would be better, just not good enough to compete with the Pats, who are proving they are the best team in the league, yet again. I also wouldn't bank on the AFC East as being one of the strongest divisions in the NFL. Of course all this comes after seeing what happened and all I can say with certainty is that in the NFL there are no certainties (other than the Pats and Colts will be playing in the AFC Championship Game). The Saints aren't last year's Saints; the Texans aren't last year's Texans. The same can be said for 80% of the NFL teams. All I can hope is that the Dolphins can be the last-place-to-first-place surprise team next year. Ah the beauty of sports: there's always next year.



## Upcoming sports on AFN

**Wednesday 10/3/07**

DKP Championship Boxing: Chad Dawson vs. Adrian Diaconu replay 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

Marshal @ Memphis live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Boxing: Jermain Taylor vs. Kelly Pavlik replay 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

2007 National League Division Series- game 1: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

2007 National League Division Series- game 1: Teams TBD live 11:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

**Thursday 10/4/07**

2007 American League Division Series- game 1: Teams TBD live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Anaheim Ducks @ Detroit Red Wings live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

Dallas Stars @ Colorado Avalanche live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Rice @ Southern Mississippi replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

2007 National League Division Series- game 2: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

2007 National League Division Series- game 2: Teams TBD live 11:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

**Friday 10/5/07**

2007 American League Division Series- game 2: Teams TBD live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Kentucky @ South Carolina live 2:30 AFN/xtra replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports

2007 American League Division Series- game 1: Teams TBD live 5:00 a.m.

AFN/sports

2007 American League Division Series- game 2: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

**Saturday 10/6/07**

Utah @ Louisville live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports

College Football: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

College Football: Teams TBD live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports

2007 National League Division Series- game 3: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

2007 National League Division Series- game 3: Teams TBD live 11:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

**Sunday 10/7/07**

Notre Dame @ UCLA live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports

NFL Football: Teams TBD live 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports

2007 American League Division Series- game 3: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

2007 American League Division Series- game 3: Teams TBD live 11:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

**Monday 10/8/2007**

NFL Football: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Chicago Bears @ Green Bay Packers live 3:15 a.m. AFN/sports

**Tuesday 10/9/07**

Dallas Cowboys @ Buffalo Bills live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports replay 2:00 p.m.

AFN/sports replay 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

# Shout outs from home

### Bradley Dees

Hi Daddy Pumpkin Head!! When we move to be with you, I want a white Boxer puppy named Elina after Barbie in Fairytoria. I miss you big bunches and I love you more! XO Tayla Dees

### Happy birthday Steve Schroeder!

~ The Ohio Schroeders, Doug, Kelly and the Kids

You're the man, fly straight!  
~Jonathan Zietlow

We miss you and thank God for you and all the other people serving our country. Stay safe and come home soon. ~Mark, Alissa and baby-on-the-way

God's blessings as you are serving our country. You are in our prayers and we wish you a wonderful birthday. Thanks for what you are doing for us... We love you!

~Dan, Linka, Philip, Kylah, Joshua and Annika

Daddy! We are praying for

you everyday and taking good care of each other. ~ Sarah, Lina, & Sophia

Happy birthday, **Shawn Crabtree**. We all miss you and can't wait for you to get home.

Melissa Badenna

### Mike Harmison

Ich bin so glücklich, DEINE Frau zu sein, weil Du der beste und liebste Mann auf der ganzen Welt bist! Ich freue mich schon so auf Mauritius mit Dir im Januar, weil nur DU diese Insel zur Traum-Insel machst! Ich liebe Dich so sehr!

Andrea

### Gary Golubski

Happy Birthday! We hope you continue to stay safe. Our prayers are with you.

Love,

Mom & Nick

### Dana Howett

Honey, I love you and miss you! You are now, and always will be, my inspiration, my strength and the love of my life!

Love always,  
Rich

### Dana Howett

Mommy, I can't wait for you to come home and curl up with me on the couch to watch "Cars" and the "Piggy" movie! I love you and miss you!

Love always,  
Emmy

### Charri Leonard

BBB!!! Those were the days.....hurry back I miss you! Love and miss you,

Dawn



Want to see your shoutouts here?

Your family can email us, send pictures at:



anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Subject: Shout outs

## SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

**Wednesday, Oct. 3**  
5 p.m. The Invasion (PG-13)  
8 p.m. War (R)

**Thursday, Oct. 4**  
5 p.m. Resident Evil: Extinction (R)  
8 p.m. Illegal Tender (R)

**Friday, Oct. 5**  
8 p.m. MWR presents the band "POISON"

**Saturday, Oct. 6**  
2 p.m. The Heartbreak Kid (R)  
5 p.m. The Game Plan (PG)  
8 p.m. Superbad (R)

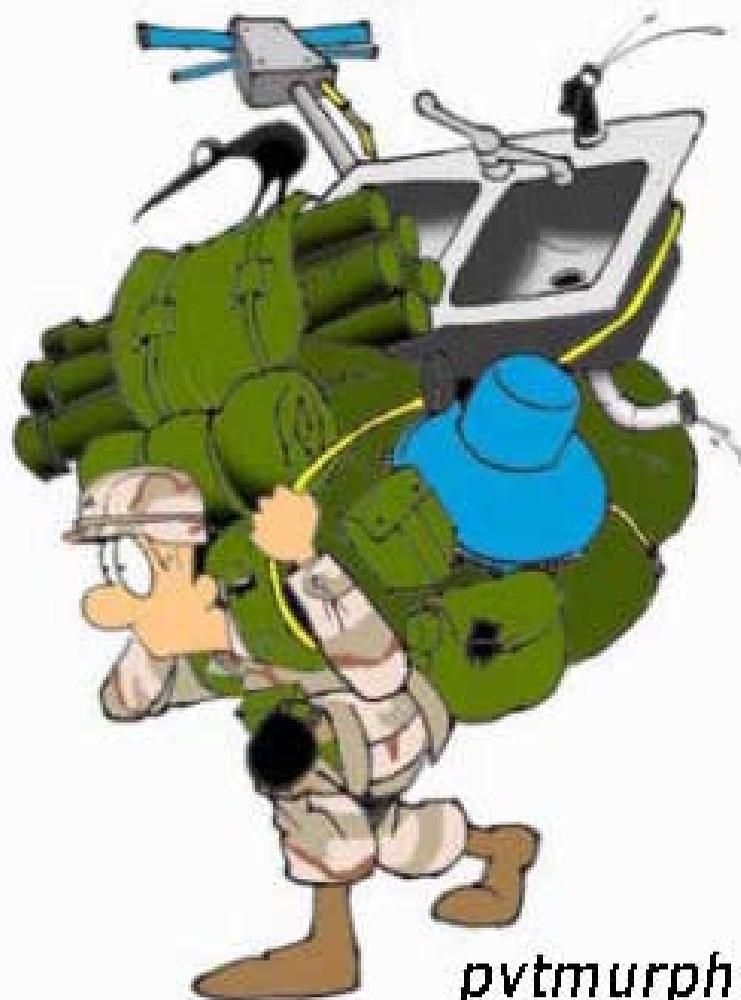
**Sunday, Oct. 7**  
2 p.m. The Game Plan (PG)  
5 p.m. Death Sentence (R)  
8 p.m. The Kingdom (R)

**Monday, Oct. 8**  
5 p.m. The Game Plan (PG)  
8 p.m. Superbad (R)

**Tuesday, Oct. 9**  
5 p.m. Superbad (R)  
8 p.m. The Kingdom (R)

### Pvt. Murphy's Law

**S-4**  
(Supply)



pvtmurphy.com

# ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

## INDOOR POOL

**250-meter swim:** Saturday- 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**aqua training:** Thursday- 7:45 p.m.

### swim lessons:

- *beginners:* Tuesday- 6 p.m.

- *intermediate:* Thursday- 6 p.m.

- *advanced:* Saturday- 6 p.m.  
**swim & pilates:** Monday- 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Friday- 9 a.m.

**technique review:** Sunday, Tuesday and Friday 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

## EAST FITNESS CENTER

**basketball tournament:** all week- 7 p.m.

**Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 8 p.m.

**Kyu Kyu Kempo:** Sunday- 2 p.m.

**modern army combatives:** Tuesday and Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

**open court volleyball:** Sunday- 6 p.m.

**Shotokan Karate Do:** Thursday- 6:45 p.m., Saturday- 8:30 p.m. and Sunday- 5:30 p.m.

**step aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 5:30 p.m.

**swing dance:** Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

**wrestling & physical fitness class:** Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 p.m.

## WEST RECREATION CENTER

**8-ball tourney:** Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**9-ball tournament:** Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**All-star dominoes tourney:** Friday- 8 p.m.

**Dungeons & Dragons:** Saturday- 8 p.m.

**Friday nights in Balad:** Friday- 8 p.m.

**foosball:** Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Green Bean karaoke:** Wednesday and Sunday- 8 p.m.

## Hip Hop dance lessons:

Saturday- 9 p.m.

**Magic: The Gathering:** Sunday- 8 p.m.

**Middle Eastern dance class:** Thursday- 10 p.m.

**ping pong tourney:** Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**salsa dance class:** Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.

**Texas hold 'em:** Saturday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Unreal tournament:** Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## WEST FITNESS CENTER

**3-on-3 basketball tourney:** Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

**6-on-6 volleyball tourney:** Friday- 7 p.m.

**aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 7 p.m.

**dodge ball game:** Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.

**open court basketball:** Thursday- 7 p.m.

**open court soccer:** Monday- 7 p.m.

**soccer tennis tourney:** Wednesday- 7 p.m.

ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

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ofpoison



www.bretmichaels.com

## BAD IN THE SADDLE AGAIN

The bad boy of Hollywood's glam-rock scene returns to the stage for a new world tour. Performing some of your all-time favorites, the infamous front man of Poison is back with a vengeance. This show features a playlist of party anthems that'll rock you into next week.



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Tell us how you liked the show at [www.armedforcesentertainment.com](http://www.armedforcesentertainment.com)

## Army 10 Miler Registration Form



Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female (circle one)

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (DSN): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: Army Air Force Navy Marine  
Coast Guard Contractor (circle one)

Running as: Individual Relay Team Group

AGE on Day of Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Average One Mile Time: \_\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Info

The Army 10-miler will be held on  
Oct. 7, 2007

Drop Boxes with paper forms are located at all DFACs and fitness centers.

Online, visit: <https://www.balad.iraq.centcom.mil>, go to Quick Links on the right side of pane, click on Army Ten Miler Registration, enter personal information, click save and close.

OR

<https://www.balad.iraq.centcom.mil> go to 316SC(E), G1 Events, Anaconda Ten Miler, New Item, log in your personal information, click save and close.

# Iraqi, U.S. Special Forces: protecting the future of Iraq



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eli J. Medellin

(Above and below) HADITHAH, Iraq— U.S. Army Special Forces assigned to Special Operations Task Force-West Hadithah prepare for a mission.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eli J. Medellin

(Above) RAWAH, Iraq— A U.S. Special Forces Soldier conducts rehearsal, training and pre-operation conformation, on the MK-12 sniper rifle, at sunset.

(Top) HADITHAH, Iraq— U.S. Army Special Forces assigned to Special Operations Task Force-West Hadithah prepare for a mission in their area of operations.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eli J. Medellin

RAWAH, Iraq— A U.S. Special Forces Soldier conducts rehearsal, training and pre-operation confirmation, on the MK-12 sniper rifle.

# Anaconda hosts dodgeball championship game

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—The Bainers came up on top in a dodgeball tournament that featured teams such as the Blue Falcons and The Power of Attorney at the east-side fitness center here Sept. 22.

The tournament was a 10 team, double-elimination event. Each game was a best out-of-three series.

The championship game pitted two Air Force teams against each other as the Bainers faced off against the Renegades.

The Renegades, coming into the championship undefeated made quick work of their foes, while the Bainers had to make their way through the losers' bracket after losing an early game.

Because the Renegades were undefeated coming in, the Bainers had to defeat them twice to claim the title.

After losing the first match in the best-of-three series the Bainers rattled off two straight wins to force a second game.

In the deciding game, the two teams split the first two matches. In the final match the Bainers got the lead early on and never let it go to earn the championship.



Photos by Spc. Jay Venturini

Members of Team Warrior dodge a ball during the dodgeball tournament at the east-side fitness center here Sept. 22. The 10 team tournament featured both Air Force and Army teams.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Staff Sgt. Justin Parrish, 316th ESC Joint Visitors Bureau operations NCO, and Power of Attorney player, dodges a ball during the dodgeball tournament. The Power of Attorney made a valiant effort but fell short being the first team eliminated from the tournament.



Photos by Spc. Jay Venturini

(Above) Players from Power of Attorney (Left) and The Renegades try to get the balls at the beginning of their match during the dodgeball tournament. The Renegades eventually lost to the Bainers in the championship game. (Left) Capt. Travis Hubble, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) assistant judge advocate and Power of Attorney player, prepares to throw a dodgeball with another in reserve.