

AnacondaTimes

OCTOBER 10, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix A. Figueroa

Enhancing Polish ability

82nd SB provides Polish soldiers with tactical enhancements

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Photo by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Patterson

IED training lanes open

Memory of fallen Soldier inspires building of IED lanes

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Web Image

The Latest in Sports

Check out Rob's football picks for the week, AFN's sport schedule

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Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Soldiers in the 1st Cavalry Division make sure a pallet weighing 5,000 pounds is properly placed into a Chinook during a hot load here Sept. 26. Hot loads allow crews to load cargo without the hassles of restarting engines and power systems.

Moving cargo by air saves lives

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSAANACONDA, Iraq — On the deadliest roads in Iraq, security teams here escort trucks loaded with everything from medicine to metal, petroleum to parts and every other type of supply needed to survive at war. Even the best protective equipment and explosives-resistant vehicles cannot stop all threats on the road. That is why moving cargo by air is a vital logistics tool.

"We're keeping Soldiers off the roads," said Pvt. John T. Montes, a truck driver from Laredo, Texas with the 403rd Cargo Transfer Company (ICTC.)

"At first I thought it would be interesting and fun going outside the wire doing convoy security, then you hear about convoys getting hit and you feel good about loading up birds and pushing supplies by air."

Pfc. Christopher Reed
403rd ICTC

Soldiers in the 403rd ICTC keep things moving. They op-

erate huge forklifts and flatbed trucks to transport supplies from yards here to flight lines, and then help pack pallets onto helicopters. By delivering supplies by air, less combat logistics patrols are required for ground missions, which means less Soldiers and civilians are at risk of death or injury, said Sgt. Brandon Carroll, a cargo specialist from Headland, Ala. with the 403rd ICTC.

"At first I thought it would be interesting and fun going outside the wire doing convoy security, then you hear about convoys getting hit and you feel good about loading up birds and pushing supplies by air," said Pfc. Christopher Reed, a truck

driver from El Dorado, Ark., also with the 403rd ICTC.

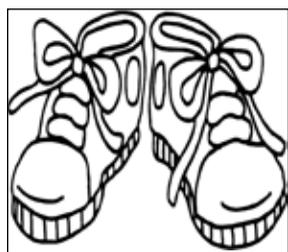
The 403rd moves on average about 420,000 pounds of supplies per month via air to installations large and small throughout Iraq, said Sgt. 1st Class Edward Whitehead, a 403rd ICTC platoon sergeant.

To minimize time on the ground, pallets are often hot loaded onto aircraft, which means crews work at break-neck speeds to pack pallets weighing 5,000 pounds each into the belly of a Chinook without powering down the aircraft.

This process allows crews to take off without the hassles of restarting engines and power

See CARGO, Page 14

Something to think about: Editorial Asides



Sneakers, the one fashion statement we have: Let me see, the Army, and we presume the other services as well, issue us all the standard uniform requirements. We're issued uniforms, t-shirts, socks, hats, gloves, underwear, boots,

eye protection, body armor, Kevlar helmet, PT shirt and shorts, earplugs and even a reflective belt. The one critical item not issued, and left up to individual choice is the running or athletic shoe. In everyday English, we call it "the sneaker." The sneaker is the one item we servicemembers have to purchase for the performance of a very important and necessary military duty physical training. As I browsed through the post exchange here over the last several months, I noticed the sneaker selection....six pairs for men, six pairs for women. And the selection of sizes and widths. How many shoes manufacturers are there and how many different types of running sneakers are made? With a little random research I determined that there were 14 major manufacturers of athletic shoes that we could easily find. The types of sneakers these companies make, combined, has to be in the hundreds, with sizes from one to 20 and widths to at least triple EEE. Maybe I could get a better selection, or wait for the ultimate in military fashion...how about a Kevlar running shoe with a reflective "swoosh" and a Camelback attachment?



seed at Holt Stadium, at least on the athletic field portion? Imagine a little grass on the field. We would be able to hold proper football, soccer and other events, and our socks would be much happier. Ok, the Army doesn't want to maintain the grass field...then could we consider astro turf?



cleaning our streets, performing maintenance, erecting T-walls, filling sandbags, washing vehicles, repairing vehicles, cleaning equipment, filling our tanks with gas...you name it, and Third Country National have probably done it. They are here to help make the load of the servicemembers a little lighter. So, thank them; it doesn't cost us anything. However, saying it

Grass, who needs grass? The answer is, our socks do. Tired of having your white socks turn gray, brown, green or blue after one wear in the dust, dirt and sand and after only one PT session? Wouldn't it be nice if we plant grass

means a lot and demonstrates gratitude for a job well done.



A chicken in every pot, \$5,000 for every baby born, 5 acres for every veteran?: Recently, one of the U.S. presidential candidates suggested that \$5,000 be given to the parents of every baby born for

future educational or home purchases. On the surface, not a bad idea. We will not get into whether this is sound economic or social policy, that's for the voters to decide in 2008. But, we have an idea that we think merits some discussion among the military and political policy makers in Washington. This idea would help morale, retention and recruiting in the U.S. Armed Forces. Why not provide five to ten acre plots of land in under populated areas of the United States to veterans for? Upon completion of a four year basic enlistment, or one combat tour, and the veteran would be eligible for this land-grant. The land could be used for housing, farming, small business development, ranching, hunting or recreation. The Homestead Act of 1862 provided 160 acres to any person who moved west and settled in the west and mid-western areas of the country. Likewise, this modern land-grant will help spur economic development and reward those who have selflessly served their country.

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Sept. 22-28

The PMO conducted: (144) security checks, (46) traffic stops, issued (43) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (223) vehicles on the installation, (17) Common Access Cards were turned in to PMO and (1) lost weapon was reported.

The PMO is currently investigating: (2) assault cases, (5) cases of Larceny Government/Personal Property and (2) General Order #1 violations.

PMO Recommendations: Yielding at traf-

fic circles means allowing the vehicle currently in the traffic circle to proceed before you proceed. In other words, the vehicle currently in the traffic circle has the right-of-way. Always wear your seatbelt. All bicycle operators ensure you also obey the rules of the road.

Crime Prevention: Label your personal equipment. Engrave or stencil your personal property with an additional identification number, i.e. last four of your social security number or any additional numbers/letters that will make it easier to identify.



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

Airman 1st Class Sara Pelusi from the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, PMO "Airman of the Month" for Sept. 2007 takes a picture with Col. William Kolakowski, 332 EMSG, commander.

ANACONDA TIMES

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

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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

Did you know October is National Disability Awareness Month?

by Tech Sgt. Gwendolyn D. Ford
Det 1, 332d EMSG, Mayor's Cell

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Halloween isn't the only event some observe in October. It is also Disability Awareness Month.

This month, service-members should take time to educate themselves and those around them about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the contributions made by disabled persons.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 53 million Americans of all ages have a disability, and about two-thirds of these individuals have a severe disability.

When you look around today, you will find society is more accepting of people with disabilities. It is evident in the workplace, transportation, educational and public facilities. For this we give thanks to the creators of the ADA.

The ADA was established in 1990 and took effect July 26, 1992. The ADA prohibits most private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies and labor unions

from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities. This includes discriminatory screening, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation and job training procedure.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits such practices in the federal government (except for uniformed members of the Armed Forces).

The definition of disability in the ADA is a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect upon a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

A disability can take on many forms, from physical to mental to psychological. Some are very apparent, while others you would not be aware of unless you were informed.

Being aware of persons with disabilities help to increase appreciation for the population as well as decrease stereotyping due to a lack of knowledge.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) reports for the 2006 fiscal year they received 15,575 complaints of discrimination filed under the



Web Image

ADA.

Of the complaints filed, over 3,000 were settled and nearly \$49 million in monetary benefits were awarded. These facts show that the processes in place to alleviate discrimination against disabled persons are working; however, it also shows, unfortunately, there are still people violating the policy.

During this month, if you

are not already knowledgeable and aware, take time to learn more about the disability act, those who are affected by it and their contributions to society.

You can learn more about the accomplishments and contributions of disabled Americans at the American Association of People with Disabilities website at <http://www.aapd-dc.org/docs/>

[info.php](http://www.aapd-dc.org/docs/info.php), American Civil Liberties Union <http://aclu.org/disability/index.html> and the Disability Resources Organization at <http://www.disabilityresources.org>.

Source:
<http://www.eeoc.gov/stats/ada-monetary.html>

<http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/fs-ada.html>

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

Combat Stress Control

785th Medical Company (CSC)

433-2402

Individual counseling by appointment or walk-in

Command referrals

Services for combat and operationally stressed soldiers

RELAXATION TECHNIQUES

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

STRESS MANAGEMENT

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

HOME FRONT ISSUES

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
5 TO 6 P.M.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANGER MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANXIETY AWARENESS

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

SLEEP HYGIENE

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

GOAL SETTING

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

DEPRESSION AWARENESS

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

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

WEDNESDAY
9 TO 11 A.M.

for more information,
email:

tammy.phipps@us.army.mil

433-2402

Protecting the East Entry Control Point



Photo by Sgt. Dave Lankford

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Spc. Chad Jones, an Air Defense Tactical Operations Center Operator with A Battery, 55th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, searches a local national at the East Entry Control Point prior to granting him access to the LSA. Though the Roseburg, Ore. native has only been doing searches for about a week, he says most of the Iraqis he has met are good people who want our help to “get their country straight.”

Mullen sworn in as new CJCS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Adm. Michael Mullen was sworn in by Marine Gen. Peter Pace as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Oct. 1 at the Pentagon. Mullen replaced Pace who retired the same day.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is by law the highest ranking officer of the United States military, and the principal military adviser to the President of the United States.

The Los Angeles native graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. in 1968. Mullen commanded three ships during his tenure including the USS Noxubee, the USS Goldsborough and the USS Yorktown.

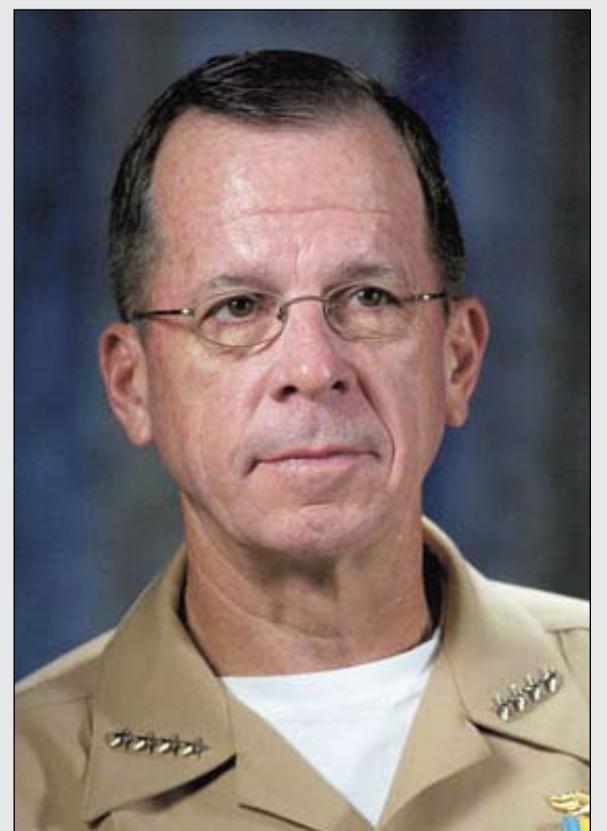
Mullen graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., with a Master of Science degree in Operations Research. He is also a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business

School.

Mullen's last operational assignment was Commander, Joint Force Command Naples, as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe. Based in Naples, Italy. There he had operational responsibility for NATO missions in the Balkans, Iraq and the Mediterranean as well as providing overall command, operational control and coordination of U.S. naval forces in the European Command area of responsibility.

One of the main points in Mullen's inaugural speech was on the Global War on Terrorism.

“We reset, reconstitute and revitalize our Armed Forces, especially our ground forces, and we properly balance our risks around the globe,” said Mullen. “So fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan will one day end; we must be ready for who and what comes after. That's the promise we've made.”



Adm. Michael Mullen

Adm. Michael Mullen makes promise to troops in letter

To America's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and your families,

I am honored today to begin my term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As I do, allow me to thank you for your service at this critical time in our Nation's history.

Whether you serve in Baghdad, Kabul, or Kuwait – whether you find yourself at sea in the Pacific, flying support missions over Europe, on the ground in Africa, or working every day at stateside bases- you are making a difference and so is every person in your family. Your service matters. And I do not take it for granted.

The world is a dangerous place. The hundreds of thousands of you have deployed since Sept. 11- many of you more than once- already know that. You've stood up to those dangers. You have lost friends to them. You may even have lost some of yourself to them. The dangers of this new and uncertain era have hit you and the people you love squarely in the gut. I will not lose sight of that.

Nor should any of us lose sight of the need to continue serving. The enemies we face, from radical jihadists to regional powers with nuclear ambitions, directly and irrefutably threaten our vital national interests. They threaten our very way of life.

You stand between these dangers and the American people. You are the sentinels of freedom. You signed up, took an oath, made a promise to defend something larger than yourselves. And then you went out and did it. I am grateful and honored, to be able to serve alongside you.

The law says my main job is to advise the President, the Secretary of Defense and the National Security

Council on issues of military readiness and capabilities. But, I also see myself as your representative to those same leaders, an advocate for what matters to you and your families – *your* voice in the policies, programs and processes that affect our National security. I will not forget the impact my decisions have on you.

I will remember that you, too, comprise a great generation of patriots, and that among you are combat veterans with battlefield experience that many at my level have never and will never endure. I will tap that experience. I want to make sure we learn from it.

I am not interested in planning to fight the last war, but neither am I interested in ignoring the valuable lessons we continue to learn from this one. It would be foolish to dismiss the knowledge you have gained. I will not do that.

I know the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are taking a toll on you and your families. They are taking a toll on our equipment, our systems and our ability to train as well. I worry, quite frankly, that they are taking a toll on our readiness for other threats in other places.

But that does not mean our struggles there are not important. They most certainly are important. They are vital.

To the degree the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan contribute to or detract from a stable, secure Middle East, they bear a direct effect on the security of the United States. That is why my number one priority will be developing a comprehensive strategy to defend our National interests in the region.

Next on my list is resetting and revitalizing our Armed Forces, especially the Army and Marine Corps. I believe our ground forces are the center of gravity

for the all-volunteer force and that we need to make sure that force is correctly shaped and sized, trained and equipped to defend the Nation.

Finally, I intend to properly balance global strategic risk. We must stay mindful of our many global security commitments and of the core war fighting capabilities, resources and partnerships required to conduct operations across the full spectrum of peace and conflict. The demands of current operations, however great, should not dominate our training exercises, education curricula, and readiness programs.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan will one day end. We must be ready for who and what comes after.

There is much to do. The speed of war, the pace of change, is too great for any of us to manage it alone. I need your help, your ideas and your input. Whenever I travel to the field and to the fleet, I expect you to tell me what is on your mind. Tell me what you think. I need your constant feedback. I can't succeed – we can't succeed – without it.

You made a promise to defend this country. Let me make one to you: I will listen to you. I will learn from you. And I will endeavor to lead always with your best interest at heart.

The way I see it, that is my job.



M. G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Creative outlet: gazebos beautify landscape



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Laredo, Texas native, Sgt. 1st Class Omar Delgado, first sergeant for the 606th Movement Control Team, works to construct a gazebo Sept. 26. The Do It Yourself Center here provides wood and other materials for residents to build whatever they have the creativity, time and skill to produce.

Sept. 26 Anaconda Times correction

In the Sept. 26, 2007 edition of the Anaconda Times, Maj. Christopher E. West wrote an article entitled, "New Technology Increases Badge Security" which highlighted the LSAA force protection and badging procedure process. In this article, the following error was noted which needs clarification. First, third country nationals and local nationals on this installation are issued permanent badges in lieu of temporary badges to the furthest extent possible. In order for the individuals to be entered into the Biometric Automated Tool Set (BATS) and Biometrics Identification System for Access, not biometric identification scanning apparatus as printed in the article, a formal application, screening interview and biometrics enrollment must be conducted. Temporary Badges are issued as a means of providing credentials while the applicant waits for their permanent badge to print.

Catfish Air gives LSA Anaconda Soldiers a lift

by Sgt. Brandon Little

12th Combat Aviation Brigade

LSA ANACONDA — Traveling in a convoy throughout Iraq can be dangerous, time consuming and just an all around inconvenience.

Flying, on the other hand, can be a quicker and less dangerous method of travel, but not all bases have large enough runways.

Another option that has become popular among military and civilians on here is Catfish Air.

Catfish Air is a rotary wing passenger terminal partially operated by Soldiers from Task Force XII. This terminal coordinates helicopter flights for personnel to travel throughout Iraq.

“The name ‘Catfish Air’ came from a Mississippi National Guard unit operating the terminal during Operation Iraqi Freedom II,” said Capt. Mackie Brownell, the Task Force XII officer in charge of Catfish Air and the task force’s aviation advisory tower. “I think they chose this named because it’s one of their state’s top exports, or it was their commander’s nickname.”

Task Force XII picked up the mission started by that National Guard unit more than three years ago. The majority of the helicopters used



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

Sgt. Aneliese Diaz, a Task Force XII radio and telephone operator at Catfish Air, shows a Catfish Air passenger a poster with helicopter safety procedures.

to accomplish this mission are UH-60 Black Hawks, but CH-47 Chinooks are used

in about 10 percent of their flights.

“Since we took over, we have improved what we could to make passenger travel run smoother,” said Staff Sgt. John Santoro, the Task Force XII noncommissioned officer in charge of Catfish Air. “The Soldiers and civilians here are doing a great job making sure people get to where they need to go.”

“In August alone, we moved nearly 11,000 personnel in more than 1,500 helicopters designated for passenger transport,” said Brownell. “This service isn’t just for military; we also fly civilian contractors, AAFES employees and members of the Iraqi Security Forces.”

In addition to U.S. and Iraqi security, other Coalition Forces also use Catfish Air to travel throughout Iraq.

“We have to fly as part of our force protection and it’s also a lot safer,” said Sgt. Dave Pickles, an Australian Army soldier and passenger on a Catfish Air flight. “I think the people that work here are very helpful, and they have a good facility with plenty of cool water to

“Since we took over, we have improved what we could to make passenger travel run smoother.”

Staff Sgt. John Santoro
TF XII

drink.”

Transporting Soldiers to conduct combat operations is also a big part of Catfish Air’s job.

“When we have to move Soldiers on missions, we can have up to 1,000 people in the terminal a day,” said Brownell. “The noise level can be unbelievable when you have that many people and up to ten helicopters trying to fly out all at once. It can really create an ulcer.”

Once passengers are manifested for a flight, they then put their bags on a cargo bus. Next they are taken out to the helicopter and placed in the hands of the aircraft’s crew chief.

“We work pretty smoothly together,” said Staff Sgt.

Mike Gunderson, a crew chief from A Co. 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment. “If this is what we need to do to support the ‘war-fighter’ then I’m all for it.”

From the helicopter flight crews to the Soldiers monitoring the helicopter runway traffic, all Catfish Air workers have their own role in helping to provide this support.

“A lot of things people need to do can’t happen without us,” said Spc. Billy Robinson, Jr., a Catfish Air radio and telephone operator. “Whether it’s flying a Soldier to rest and relaxation leave or flying troops to conduct missions; we get the job done.”

Their efforts to get personnel where they need to go have made Catfish Air a popular choice for military and civilians when it comes to traveling throughout Iraq.

“In the morning, you can fly down to Baghdad to do what you have to do, and be back on LSA Anaconda by dinner,” said Brownell. “We give great flexibility for people to conduct operations outside of their work area.”



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

Spc. Billy Robinson, Jr., a Task Force XII radio and telephone operator working in the advisory tower at Catfish Air, takes down the information being given to him from an inbound helicopter.

82nd SB enhances Polish capabilities

by Sgt. 1st Class Felix A. Figueroa

82nd Sustainment Brigade

LSA ADDER, Iraq — Polish soldiers and 82nd Sustainment Brigade (SB) troops stationed in Camp Echo, flew down here recently in a former Soviet Mi-8 (HIP) helicopter to pick up tactical enhancement devices for Polish ground vehicles.

According to Maj. Richard A. Hall, 82nd SB liaison officer, the Rhino I system is going to be installed on Polish M1114s or HMMWVs in order to provide an increased level of protection and freedom of movement as they conduct operations in the Al Quadisiyah Province.

“These guys are pretty receptive, open minded and willing to try new ideas. I’m confident these Rhino systems will serve them well,” said Hall.

Operational security prohibits discussing the intricate details of how the Rhino systems work, however, the Polish troops seemed excited to receive and try out American ingenuity on their equipment.

“I’m a brand new graduate of the Polish flight school and what we learned about Iraq before deploying is very different than our current experience here,” said Capt. Sylwester Kanadys, Polish Landing Forces pilot.

“Being deployed alongside the Americans has forced us to seriously look at and modify our tactics in order to keep



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix A. Figueroa

Chief Warrant Officer William Studivant and Maj. Richard A. Hall, 82nd Sustainment Brigade, load vehicle enhancement devices onto a Polish Mi-8 (HIP) Russian made helicopter, for transport and delivery to Polish forces located in southern Iraq.

up,” Kanadys added.

In an asymmetric environment where the frontlines of Iraq are primarily the highways, the enemy is constantly changing their attack methods. To counter and mitigate terrorist’s threats, U.S. Forces

are consistently upgrading their equipment with UPARMOR and various technologically based advancements.

“Since we work together with the U.S., (securing borders and patrolling streets) I

feel it’s a good idea to put on our vehicles what they (U.S. troops) use on theirs. I’ve seen it work and I know it will be successful for us in future operations,” said Kanadys.

The Polish contingent is

assigned to Multi National Division Central South and was deployed to provide over watch assistance to Iraqi Security Forces in an effort to establish a safe and secure living environment.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Felix A. Figueroa

(Above) A Polish Mi-8 (HIP) Helicopter crewmember guides a forklift full of vehicle enhancement devices given by the U.S. Army, 82nd Sustainment Brigade. (Left) Polish Capt. Sylwester Kanadys discusses logistical matters with U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer, William Studivant, 82nd Sustainment Brigade, and ensures exact number of Rhinos (vehicle enhancement devices) are being picked up.

Soldiers, Airmen make chi



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

(Above) Staff Sgt. Sean Katz and Senior Airman Trevor McCallister maintain firefighting equipment at the fire station here Sept. 26. Both Airmen are firefighters and emergency medical technicians with the 332nd ECES/CEF.

(Below) Soldiers from the 60th Ordnance Company and the 332nd ECES/CEF participate in morning formation. Airmen and Soldiers jointly perform rescue and firefighting operations during structural fires, aircraft crashes, vehicle emergencies, terrorist attacks and natural disasters.



by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Some children dream of becoming firefighters when they grow up, but few actually become them.

“Ever since I was little I’ve wanted to be a firefighter,” said Spc. Jillian R. Cardona of Beaumont, Calif. with the 60th Ordnance (ORD) Company. “Now I am a one.”

Cardona and other Soldiers and Airmen here have made their childhood dreams come true. They serve as firefighters in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At LSA Anaconda, Soldiers from the 60th ORD Co. and the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services (ECES/CEF,) jointly perform rescue and firefighting operations during structural fires, aircraft crashes, vehicle emergencies, terrorist attacks and natural disasters. They perform first aid to the injured and are willing to risk their lives to save others.

“The fire department here is a blend. We really don’t look at it as Air Force versus Army,” said Chief Master Sgt. David S. Sandoval of Fresno Calif., fire chief here with the 332nd ECES/CEF. “We’re all just firefighters and come together as one team to share our knowledge and experience.”

It takes more than just strength to survive and save lives, said Cardona.

These highly trained professionals must think critically and clearly under extreme stress. In addition to a high-level of physical fitness, it takes a certain mindset, said Cardona, who is also an emergency medical technician (EMT).

“I was two years-old when my mom started volunteering as a firefighter and four when my dad started,” said Spc. Adam York, of Nineveh, Ind., with the 60th ORD Co., so I knew early on that I wanted to be a firefighter,” he said. York is also an EMT. In addition to fighting fires and saving lives, some firefighters must perform recovery and extraction operations.

In January, a plane carrying construction workers crashed near Balad killing more than 30 people. York and other firefighters responded.

“There really is no preparing for seeing something like that. You just stay focused on your mission and treat the dead with dignity,” he said.

“Ever since I was little I’ve wanted to be a firefighter. Now I am one.”

Spc. J.

Despite the fact that firefighters deal with dangerous issues, the mood around the fire station is often lighthearted while remaining professional. When it comes to training, it’s realistic and tough and is repeated daily. During training they may don highly layered specialty clothing which can withstand temperatures beyond 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and contain breathing apparatus while performing tasks. They may practice providing intravenous care to injured victims and operating large vehicles and equipment.

Army and Air Force personnel benefit from each others’ service conduct during training and operations.

“The Army stays here longer than we (Airmen) so Airmen benefit from their counterparts. Soldiers benefit because Army doesn’t have the aircraft that the Air Force has, so we’re able to train on all sorts of aircraft that they wouldn’t. In that sense, Soldiers are getting a wider spectrum of training and are increasing their skills,” said Sandoval, a 28-year veteran of the Air Force and emergency services.

Protecting lives and property is a mission. Spc. Scott Radtke, 21, of Nineveh, Ind. with the 60th ORD Co. feels proud of, he said. Like his best friend, he wanted to be a firefighter since childhood. He joined the Army together.

Among the most valuable services firefighters provide is responding to injured Iraqis and providing medical aid to entry control points seeking aid.

“Sometimes it’s a gunshot wound or injury caused by IEDs,” said Cardona.

They are hurt and we help them.”

“When most people are running out of a building, we’re running in,” said Sandoval.

Between saving lives and property, firefighters deal with fire and destruction, it’s no wonder why many children dream of becoming firefighters.



Photo by

Spc. Adam York carries Spc. Scott Radtke during fireman carry drills. Both Soldiers are firefighters and emergency medical technicians with the 60th Ordnance Company. These highly trained professionals must think critically and clearly under extreme stress and maintain a high-level of physical fitness.

Childhood dreams come true

anted to be

William R. Cardona
60th ORD Co.

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Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

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Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

(Above) Firefighters and emergency medical technicians, Spc. Scott Radtke with the 60th Ordnance Company and Senior Airman William Everett with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services practice putting out fire.

(Below) Air Force Staff Sgt. James Blackburn administers intravenous therapy to Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Karacsony during training Sept. 24, at LSA Anaconda. Both Airmen are firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) with the 332nd ECES/CEF. Firefighters and EMTs practice administering first aid weekly in order to keep their skills sharp.



Above and Beyond: Iraqi Special Operations Forces, Iraqi Air Force team up to defeat insurgents

by Spc. Joseph H. McAtee

CJSOTF-AP

BAGHDAD — Iraq is a country at war, fighting for freedom, determined to defeat the insurgency. As the country continues to develop politically and progress militarily, relationships are being formed that will shape the future of its promising democracy.

In the first week of September, U.S. Special Forces Soldiers attached to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula, witnessed a prime example of these flourishing relationships in Baghdad.

Marking a first in the country's history, Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) and the Iraqi Air Force (IAF) came together to train and establish a spirit of cooperation in preparation for future missions.

U.S. advisers are increasingly taking a back seat in these types of training sessions, but provide advice as needed. The event was the genesis of a relationship that will help both Iraqi military services, and especially the people of Iraq, to achieve necessary improvements toward a safe and free country.

The event occurred on an intensely hot summer afternoon when IAF UH-1 Huey helicopter aircrews, supervised by an IAF colonel, joined a company of ISOF members. All morning long, these seasoned ISOF members went through continuous drills to prepare for their final flights later in the day. Under the constant barking of an ISOF sergeant major and his cadre, the ISOF members went through a series of "dry-runs" to practice boarding and getting off Iraqi helicopters efficiently.

After each ISOF member had gone through several repetitions, the rotors began slicing the air, pitching up clouds of sand. Teams ran out to the helicopters in full gear, jumped aboard the aircraft and buckled into their seats. The helicopters slowly lifted off the ground and circled the compound before landing and preparing to accept another group of ISOF members. At the end of the day, every soldier had flown twice with an Iraqi pilot. This was



Photo by Spc. Joseph McAtee

A group of Iraqi Special Operations Forces soldiers await their turn to board an Iraqi UH-1 Huey helicopter as another group return from their first joint training mission with the Iraqi Air Force.

the initial phase of a relationship that will lead to future successes.

"The relationship they form will pay huge dividends when they start using them on missions," the U.S. Army senior adviser to the Iraqi Special Warfare Center and School (ISWCS) stated.

Hardened ISOF soldiers work continuously with their American counterparts on missions using U.S. air assets providing a tactical advantage to enhance mission success. The ISWCS adviser believes the air capability gives ISOF a lot of flexibility; allowing them to move anywhere they want in the country and serves notice to the insurgents that there is no safe place.

The ISOF sergeant major said that using air assets provides three distinct tactical advantages: speed, safety and shock. On missions where the target location is far from an ISOF base, air assets can deliver assault teams quickly and lessen the chance that a targeted insurgent will escape before the team arrives.

"The relationship they form will pay huge dividends when they start using them on missions."

U.S. Army senior adviser
ISWCS

Many roads and highways are littered with improvised explosive devices, explosively formed penetrators or other unseen dangers. Using air assets negates the threat of unconventional weapons and allows ISOF to inspect the area as they fly over.

"They are an extra eye," the ISOF sergeant major emphasized.

Helicopters are more menacing and harder to attack for insurgents. This plays into another positive aspect to use helicopters: symbolic advantages. By using Iraqi helicopters on missions, ISOF stresses the case that these are Iraq's protecting Iraq. It demonstrates to Iraqi citizens that Americans are increas-

ingly handing the reins over to their Iraqi counterparts.

"Now that they have this capability, it allows the U.S. to take another step back," the ISWCS senior adviser acknowledged.

The U.S. adviser recounted the first time when the IAF flew their helicopters into Taji and the locals began to clap and cheer as they looked up; seeing the Iraqi flag soaring overhead.

Now, months later, the helicopters slowly lift off the ground behind the Iraqi sergeant major marking another step towards ISOF and IAF cooperation. As the first of his soldiers hovered in an Iraqi piloted helicopter, the sergeant major turned to see the birth of a partnership that will help the country of Iraq and its people; respectfully saying, "This makes me very proud."



Photo by Spc. Joseph McAtee

Three Iraqi Special Operations Forces soldiers rush to board an Iraqi UH-1 Huey helicopter for their first joint training mission with the Iraqi Air Force.

Wrestling class opens at eastside fitness center

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Being deployed overseas, especially in a combat zone, can be stressful. Fortunately for Soldiers stationed here, there are many different ways to shake off anxiety, and now a new option has opened up.

A wrestling class has started up at the eastside fitness center. The class is open to anyone who is interested, even if you don't have any wrestling experience.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Spc. James Rush, class instructor, holds a student in a headlock during a wrestling match.

“It definitely gives you a good workout.”

Spc. James Sipes
15th SB

rience.

“It doesn't matter what your skill level is,” said Spc. James Rush, class instructor and 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) nuclear, biological and chemical noncommissioned officer. “If someone walks in who has never wrestled before we will show him the basics.”

The class is conducted Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. through 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 7:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m.

Rush, who is a wrestling coach at Hubbard High School, Hubbard, Ohio, got the idea to start a wrestling class after noticing the only class was on the west side of Anaconda.

“With everyone's busy schedules there's not enough time to get over to the west side, so I decided to start one over here,” said Rush.

The pace of the class is dictated by the students. If everyone has wrestling experience the class will become a tournament. If there are novices, Rush will take the time to teach them. The whole goal of the

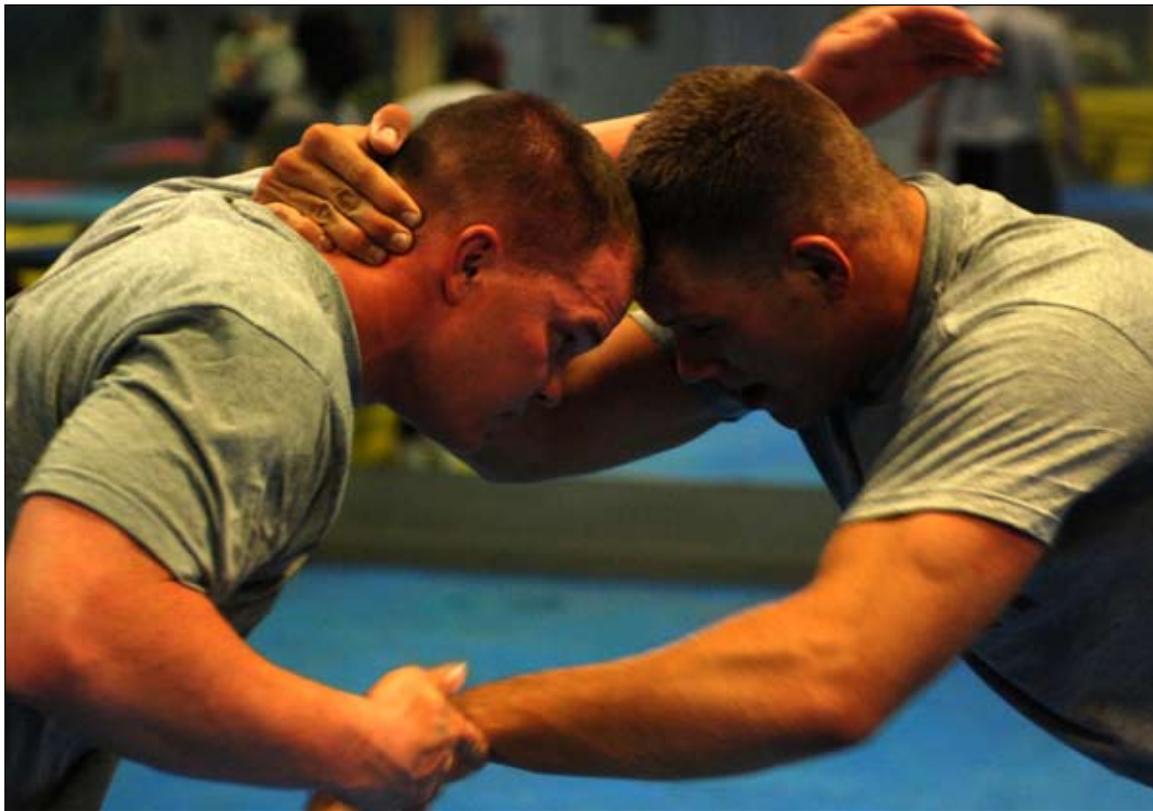


Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Spc. James Rush (left), class instructor and 316th ESC NBC NCO, and Spc. James Sipes, 15th SB LNO are locked together during a wrestling class at the eastside fitness center. The class is for anyone who has an interest in wrestling, and is offered every Tuesday and Saturday night.

class is to get a good workout and have fun.

The class can help a person in a lot of ways said Rush. It can help pass a physical training test, it's a good way to release your frustrations and it could make you feel better about yourself.

“The class is great,” said

Spc. James Sipes, 15th Sustainment Brigade liaison officer. “It definitely gives you a good workout.”

Since the first class on Sept. 15 more and more people have been coming to try the class out. There has been such a demand that Rush is trying to expand the class to three times

a week and schedule wrestling tournaments.

“I think this can get really popular,” said Rush. “Once people find out about it I believe its going to take off.”

Anyone who would like more information about the class can contact Rush at: james.rush@iraq.centcom.mil.

America's warrior

by Spc. Jay Venturini

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



Photo by Sgt. Dave Lankford

Name: Staff Sgt. Kurt W. Chebatoris

Unit: 316th ESC

Military Occupation Specialty: Infantryman, mechanic but right now assigned to support operations.

Time in service: Original enlistment was 1977. Re-enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2006.

Age: 49

Hometown: Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Family: My wife of 26 years, Sharon. She has balanced being a wife and mother with a working career since we were married in 1981. I simply could not have found a more wonderful woman to share my life with. My daughter Alicia is 22 years old and a graduate of Duquesne University; she majored in Marketing and currently works in Calif. for a resort hotel chain. Her leaving home is a bigger issue in my heart than my being deployed to Iraq! My son Alec is 18 years old, graduated High School this year and is planning on going to Robert Morris University. He is a private first class. in the Army Reserve and serves as a combat engineer. I am very proud of my wife and children.

Favorite Pastimes: I enjoy classic cars (Pontiac being my favorite, but I appreciate any classic iron). reading, watching movies, and going out to dinner with my wife and running.

One life-changing event: Meeting Sharon. Everything I have and hold dear today relates back to that one moment.

The person I admire the most: My father, hands down.

Why did you join the Service: I have very strong feelings about what happened on 9-11 and this was my way of putting my money where my mouth was.

If I wasn't in the Service I would? Continue working for Pepsi, and the never ending quest to bring 12oz of fun to everyone who wants it.

The one thing you would change about the Service: Do away with the safety belt fetish.

What makes a good leader: Ensuring your people understand what success looks like and that they have the tools to achieve it.

Unusual fact about you: I once owned every Doc Savage Pulp Magazine published from 1933 to 1949.

Motivations: To teach the next generation the right things to do.

Goals: Short term - contribute to the mission here in Iraq. Long term - travel the U.S. by car with my wife, hitting all the usual tourist traps!

Hardest part of my job here: Not being with my family.

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

St. Louis @ Baltimore:

The Rams underperforming offense and non-existent D against a well balanced Ravens team that still has Ray Lewis and Chris McAllister? Sorry Rams' fans. Rams 6, Ravens 24.

Tennessee @ Tampa Bay:

Two teams doing better than people thought they would this season. So long as Vince Young is in, I'll take the Titans. Titans 17, Buccaneers 13.

Philadelphia @ NY Jets:

Here's a barn burner for you. I never like to pick the Jets, especially when they're just not a good team. Philly's had it's share of problems this year, but I'll assume they can beat Gang Green. Eagles 24, Jets 20

Cincinnati @ Kansas City:

This game may answer one of the biggest questions of the year: Which is worse, the Bengals' defense or the Chiefs' offense? It probably doesn't matter since the Bengals offense will light up

the score board. Bengals 31, Chiefs 24.

Houston @ Jacksonville:

The dominating AFC South gives us another gem of a game. Look for the Jags to win this one on a last minute field goal. Texans 21, Jaguars 23.

Washington @ Green Bay:

This game would be worth watching just for the ageless Brett Favre. The fact that both teams are good make it all the better. Favre broke Marino's record so I got to give the nod to the Pack. Redskins 21, Packers 27.

Miami @ Cleveland:

It's another sub-par opponent for the Dolphins, so they have a chance. This game means more for the Dolphins to win since they by-passed Brady Quinn in the draft. Oh yeah, it might be a good time to get Ted Ginn Jr. some passes to quite the crowd. Dolphins 31, Browns 20.

Minnesota @ Chicago:

A classic NFC North show

down, the Vikings versus the Bears. Points will come hard in this defense struggle. Vikings are no good on the road though and the Bears are better anyway. Vikings 10, Bears 20.

Carolina @ Arizona:

The Panther's will have their hand's full with the Cardinals at Arizona. Look for the Cards offense to have a big day and the crowd will be a factor. Panthers 21, Cardinals 24.

Oakland @ San Diego:

This isn't the best game on the slate this weekend but these two teams hate each other and will play like it. Though they still haven't lived up to their potential, how can I pick against the Chargers? Raiders 13, Chargers 38.

New England @ Dallas:

Let's hope this game's on AFN. A possible Super Bowl preview midway through October is worth staying up for (or waking up early depending on your schedule). I don't know if there's a plan that



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

can beat the Patriots but the 'Boys have a legitimate shot. I'll still bet on Brady. Patriots 38, Cowboys 31.

New Orleans @ Seattle:

Everything about this match up tells me to go with the Seahawks. Don't know why I'm picking the Saints, but in the NFL, it's usually the team that isn't supposed to win that does. Saints 24, Se-

ahawks 13.

Monday Oct. 15, 2007

NY Giants @ Atlanta:

Alright G-Men, it could be a lot worse than facing Atlanta this Monday. Petrino's done a decent job with the Falcons but this is definitely a winnable game for the Giants. They take the W. Giants 27, Falcons 17.

AFC South NFC South NFL Teams



Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 10/10/07

2007 National Divisional Series- Game 5 (if necessary) live 1:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Carolina Hurricanes @ Toronto Maple Leafs live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA preseason: Memphis Grizzlies @ Unicaja Malaga replay 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
2007 National Divisional Series- Game 5 (if necessary) live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
2007 American Divisional Series- Game 5 (if necessary) live 11:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 10/11/07

Navy @ Pittsburgh live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports
2007 American Divisional Series- Game 5 (if necessary) live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Friday 10/12/07

Florida State @ Wake Forest live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
National League Championship Series- game 1 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
National League Championship Series- game 2 live 11:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 10/13/07

Hawaii @ San Jose State live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
American League Championship Series- game 1 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NBA preseason: Toronto Raptors @ Real Madrid replay 7:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College football: Teams TBD live 7:00 p.m. AFN/sports
College football: Teams TBD live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 10/14/07

American League Championship Series- game 2 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL football: teams TBD live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL football: teams TBD live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 10/15/07

National League Championship Series- game 3 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
American League Championship Series- game 3 live 11:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 10/16/07

National League Championship Series- game 4 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
New York Giants @ Atlanta Falcons live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Shout outs from home

Walt Blackwood

We conquered Price's Farm. Raven won... It poured Friday night during set up, Pedro got lost and found a soy bean field, bridges were built out of pencils and string, we played capture the flag, a giant see saw was made out of logs- able to hold up Mr. Wigington, and the Sharks had the best food. It was a great weekend but we missed you at the orienteering course. The Troop hopes you and the other Soldiers enjoy the care packages we sent. ~your favorite boy scout Troop 33.

Shannon Collins

Hello there Northwestern State University Mate! Glad to see you are doing well in Journalism!! Timothy Willis

Jennifer Iudicello

Happy 29th Birthday Jennifer! Have a fabulous day on October 4. We love you and miss you. From Nana, Aunt Peggy, Uncle Jay, Karen and Kevin

Justin Kiker

Thank you for all the support during my "pioneering adventure." Your love gets me through the day. Best of luck in all you are doing- Stay Safe and always carry the Charmin!



Tim Bemiss

Hey Daddy, Here's a big wave hello to you! I can't wait to see you again. Everyone says I look so much like you-guess that means I am handsome :-). I may even be walking when you get home! Hurry home! Love, Trevor
~I miss you so much & talk about you every day! I can't wait for you to see me dance. I had my first class & loved it. You will be so proud of me when you see how big I am getting & what a good girl I am! I love you & can't wait to see you soon. OXOX, Abbie-Doodle

Love- Your East Side Girl

Michael Acker

Aaron and I miss you so much and we love you more

than you know.

Please stay safe and we are counting the days until we see you again. With all our love, Paula and Aaron

Luis G. Santiago

Hey honey! We love and miss you!
~Vanessa, Victoria and Adriana

Want to see your shoutouts here?

Your family can email us, send pictures at:

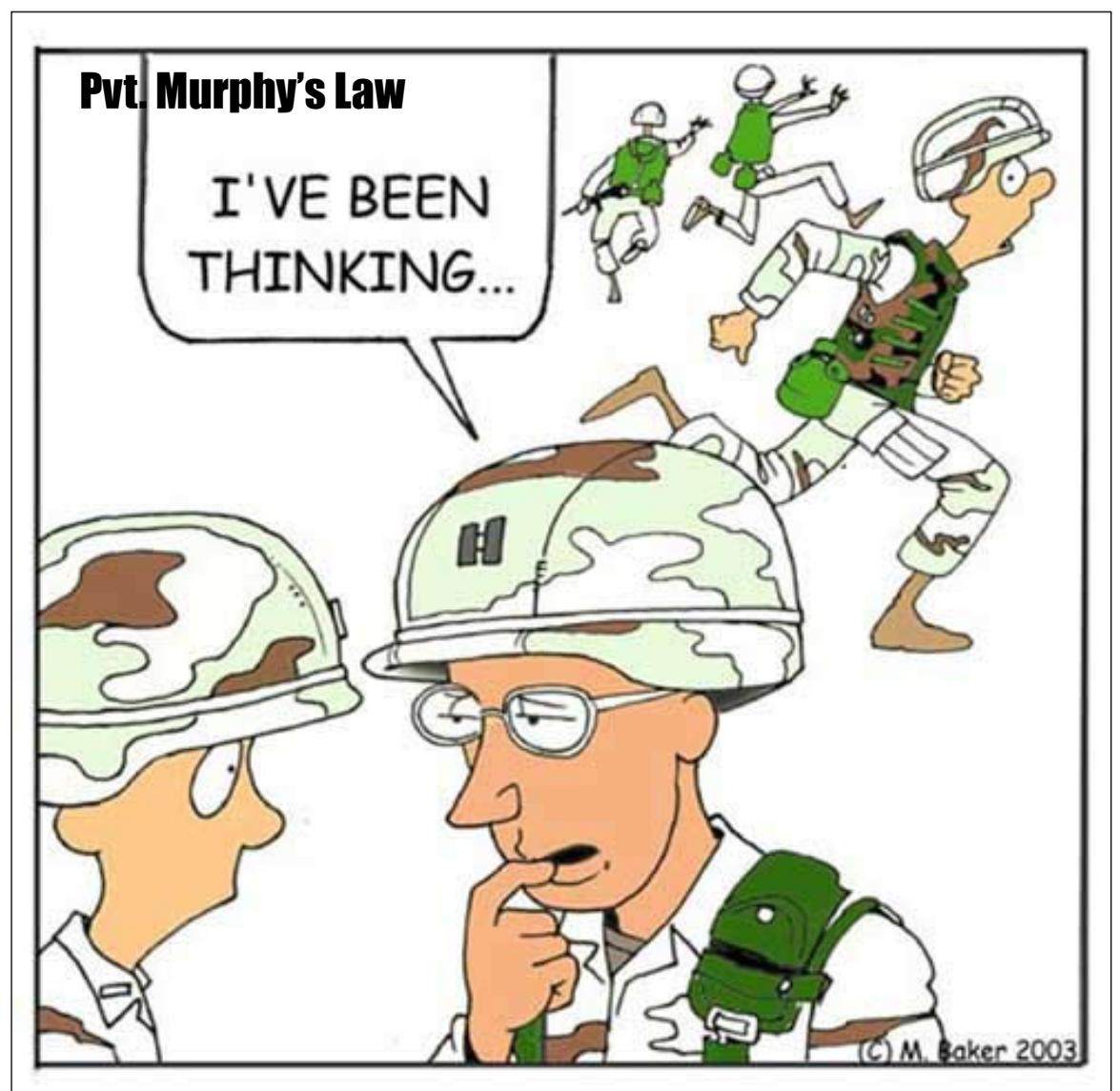


anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Subject: Shout outs

(Schedule is subject to change)

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER	Wednesday, Oct. 10	
	5 p.m.	Death Sentence (R)
	8 p.m.	Superbad (R)
	Thursday, Oct. 11	
	5 p.m.	The Kingdom (R)
	8 p.m.	The Game Plan (PG)
	Friday, Oct. 12	
	2 p.m.	Mr. Bean's Holiday (G)
	5 p.m.	The Heartbreak Kid (R)
	8 p.m.	We Own the Night (R)
	Saturday, Oct. 13	
	2 p.m.	The Heartbreak Kid (R)
	5 p.m.	Balls of Fury (PG-13)
	8 p.m.	Superbad (R)
Sunday, Oct. 14		
2 p.m.	Balls of Fury (PG-13)	
5 p.m.	Mr. Bean's Holiday (G)	
8 p.m.	The Heartbreak Kid (R)	
Monday, Oct. 15		
5 p.m.	The Brothers Solomon (R)	
8 p.m.	The Heartbreak Kid (R)	
Tuesday, Oct. 16		
5 p.m.	The Heartbreak Kid (R)	
8 p.m.	Superbad (R)	



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

500-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.

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.

EAST RECREATION CENTER

8-ball tourney: Monday- 3

p.m. and 8 p.m.

9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Battle Field 2: Thursday- 8 p.m.

Country Dance Class: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Dominoes: Friday- 8 p.m.

Hip Hop Dance Class: Friday- 7 p.m.

karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m.

model building: Sunday- 1 p.m.

poetry/ open mic: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

poker tourney:

Sunday- 6 p.m.

salsa dance class: Saturday- 7 p.m.

swing dance: Tuesday- 7p.m.

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

ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 3 p.m. and 8 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.

MLB '07 Tourney:

Thursday- 1 p.m. and 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.

WEST FITNESS CENTER

5-on-5 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-on-4 volleyball tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.

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

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

men/women soccer tourney: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.

open court soccer: Monday- 7 p.m.

squat competition: Saturday- 5 p.m.

soccer tennis tourney: Wednesday- 7 p.m.

WEST SIDE MWR & 412TH ASB
October
TALENT SHOW
SHOW DATE:
Dancing 20 OCT 07 Singing
TIME: 2000hrs
SIGN UP TODAY

8 p.m. West MWR
STARTS
Friday Nights
Bones



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Pfc. Christopher Reed, operates an All Terrain Lifter Army System (ATLAS) to unload cargo while Pvt. John T. Montes, ground guides him. Both Soldiers are truck drivers with the 403rd Cargo Transfer Company.

CARGO, from Cover fast.

“Last time I was here, I was outside the wire almost everyday,” said Sgt. Corey Agin, a cargo transportation specialist from Trenton, N.J. with the 403rd ICTC.

Agin worked as a tank mechanic in vehicle recovery operations on his first

deployment in Iraq and while he misses the experience of traveling on the roads, he sees the value of his new mission, he said.

“Soldiers are relying on these supplies and when you really need something and don’t have it, it hurts,” said Agin. “We get Soldiers the supplies they need so they can continue their missions.”

Sgt. Germaine DeBro IED Lanes – Open for business

by 2nd Lt. Stephen Williams and
2nd Lt. Jennifer Patterson

20th Engineer Brigade (HHC)

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — “Just because we are at war, doesn’t mean we stop training” explained Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commander of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)(ESC), during the opening ceremony and dedication of the Sgt. Germaine DeBro IED Training Lanes here Oct. 1.

The IED training lanes were named in memory of Sgt. Germaine DeBro from the 167th Cavalry Regiment. DeBro was killed in Balad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. His death was the only casualty suffered by the unit throughout their deployment. This training site was developed so troops can rehearse in a controlled environment before facing the real threat, said Couch.

Since the Global War on Terrorism began, the Army has worked to incorporate lessons learned into tactics, techniques and procedures. The flow of information has become almost constant, allowing units to continually update the methods they employ to engage the enemy. The IED Driver’s Training Lane here represents the next step in the Army’s effort to train for the current conflict.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Patterson

Lt. Col. Joseph Wedding, Commander of Air Force Detachment 15, Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, 316th ESC Commander, Col. Ralph J. Romine, LSAA Garrison Commander, and Lt. Col. Joseph Tyron, Deputy Brigade Commander, 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne), cut the ribbon to officially open the Sgt. DeBron IED lanes.

With the opening of the IED lanes, units in country can train against the latest tactics employed by the enemy, develop better procedures and practice new battle drills in as realistic an envi-

ronment as the Army Corps of Engineering can provide. The IED lane features several paths designed to resemble local roads, an overpass, man-made obstacles, structures and plenty of places to

hide IEDs of all types.

The IED lane was constructed by Bravo Company, 92nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), during July and August 2007. The Bulldogs’ Earth Moving Platoon was responsible for all landscaping. The Earth Movers built up knolls, graded the roadways, cut drainage ditches and spread gravel over most of the road surfaces. Their efforts laid the foundation for the facility, and Bravo Company’s first platoon came behind them to carry out the vertical construction portion of the project and add the final touches.

First Platoon Soldiers measured, formed and placed a concrete roadway for the IED lane, adding realistic road features like telephone poles, manhole covers and a dividing median. These elements all factor into common enemy tactics used against Coalition Forces. Working nights to avoid the mid-summer heat, the Soldiers of first platoon worked tirelessly pouring concrete and forming sections to pour the next night. They also constructed the overpass portion of the facility with one small change

to the original design; instead of four plywood signs catching the eyes of personnel using the facility, the Soldiers of first platoon hung up four large black diamonds, the signature of their parent unit, the 92nd.

The finished facility very closely mimics the roads used by Coalition Forces all over Iraq: sandy, dusty and littered with trash and debris. Unlike the local roads however, the trash and debris at the IED lane is carefully placed for maximum authenticity. Similar to local roads, it is used to distract Soldiers from the simulated dangers the facility offers.

Bravo Company Soldiers have already reaped the benefit of the IED lane, using the facility to rehearse their own combat missions since late July. Now Soldiers from units all over LSAA will be able to train at this facility, learning tactics they can then turn around and use to take the fight to the enemy.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Couch stated, “The best way to honor this fallen Soldier is to turn this area over to the Iraqi Army in the near future.”



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Patterson

Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) delivers a message to the crowd as the gates to the new Sgt. Germaine DeBro IED Training Lanes open.

Iraqi motor pool makes destroyed vehicles showroom ready



Photos by Spc. Jay Venturini

(Above) CAMP TAJI, Iraq - An Iraqi soldier hammers out the dented fender of a non tactical vehicle at the Iraq Army Services and Support Institute motor pool. The Iraqi soldiers bring a lot of ingenuity to the motor pool, and are willing to use almost anything to get the job done.

(Below) CAMP TAJI, Iraq - An Iraqi contractor works on the engine of an Iraqi humvee. Iraqi contractors can also go through the institute to be trained on basic mechanical skills.



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(Above) CAMP TAJI, Iraq - An Iraq Soldier works on the engine of a non-tactical vehicle. After learning the basic mechanical skills from the institute the Iraqi soldiers are allowed to run the motor pool, which fixes destroyed vehicles and makes them look new.

(Below) CAMP TAJI, Iraq - An Iraqi soldier explains to an Iraqi contractor what is wrong with a humvee. The motor pool is run by Iraqi soldiers that went through the basic mechanics course at the institute.

